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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

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## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Arab League Chief, Belgian Foreign Minister Meet

*NC2712163092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1354 GMT 27 Dec 92*

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received Willy Claes, Belgian minister of foreign affairs and deputy prime minister, and his delegation who are currently visiting Cairo.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that during the meeting, he clarified the Arab viewpoint regarding the Middle East peace process, in addition to the Palestinian deportees issue and the situations in Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He added that the meeting also dealt with Arab-European dialogue, especially since Belgium will chair the European Community next year. He pointed out that he found the Belgian official very understanding of Arab stands and eager to support Arab issues.

## Islamic Affairs

### ICO Group Discusses Bosnia With France's Dumas

*LD2912102292 Tehran IRNA in English 0932 GMT 29 Dec 92*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA—Members of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO]discussed a recent resolution approved by the U.N. General Assembly on Bosnia-Herzegovina with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas Monday.

The OIC Contact Group comprising ambassadors of Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Senegal to the UN lashed out at the Serbs for violating the U.N. Security Council resolutions and for their disrespect for the international community.

They said the Serbs openly and systematically violated the human rights in compliance with their policy of "ethnic cleansing".

The Serbs are attacking the Bosnian people with heavy artillery and preventing supply of humanitarian aid to the defenceless people in the area.

The group voiced OIC's deep concern over the current developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and called on the Security Council members to implement the U.N. resolutions on Bosnia.

They urged France, a permanent member of the Security Council, to take any measures necessary to ensure peace and security and to improve the U.N. credit.

Dumas said France understood the decisiveness of Islamic countries and their concern on the tragic events in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the destiny of Muslims there "and share your concern."

He said ethnic cleansing, violence, systematic rapes and concentration camps have made the situation unacceptable. He added that the Security Council should pass a new resolution on full implementation of previous resolutions especially on deciding a "no-fly zone" over Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said France will continue its efforts in this connection.

The resolution proposed by Islamic countries and approved on December 18 by the General Assembly calls for the use of force and lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina if the Belgrade government failed to halt its crimes in Bosnia by January 15.

It also asks the Security Council to use all necessary means to restore the territorial integrity of Bosnia. The formation of an international tribunal on war crimes soon after the U.N. investigation team concluded its research works has also been urged in the resolution.

On the deportation of the 415 Palestinians by the Zionist regime, Dumas said the conditions imposed on them was unacceptable and mentioned bids made by France to settle the problem and to dispatch monitors to the area.

## Palestinian Affairs

### 'Arafat Adviser Urges Resumption of U.S. Dialogue

*LD2912111392 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1120 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Tunis, 28 Dec (TAP)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, the adviser of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that there is no logical reason to prevent the resumption of the Palestinian-American dialogue. He called on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to deal with matters in the spirit of the peace process, adding that Israel's prevention of the International Red Cross from performing its duty toward the deported Palestinians was an act of war.

In a statement he made in Tunisia, a copy of which TAP received this morning, Abu-Sharif said: "The U.S. President is capable of acting in freedom from any influence, and he should restore relations immediately between the PLO and the United States." He added: "Such a step would restore part of the U.S. credibility toward the peace process." [passage indistinct]

'Arafat's adviser added: "We expect the U.S. Administration to take a stand that proves its adherence to the principles of respect of human rights and the impermissibility of the occupation of the territories of others by force."

## Further on Palestinian Leadership Talks in Tunis

*LD2812193292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] A meeting of the Palestinian leadership was held in Tunis from 23 to 26 December under the chairmanship of the brother president and leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. The delegation of the leadership of the Islamic movement Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] was welcomed, as well as the leadership of the Islamic Jihad.

The conferees discussed the latest developments, especially the hideous crime committed by the Rabin government in the mass deportation of 413 Palestinian mujahid from their homeland. This crime coincided with an escalation of the repression campaign and the iron fist policy, as well as the organized official state terrorism against the sons of our mujahid people with tyranny and the imposition of total curfew, starving, killing, mass arrests, and continuous crimes against our Islamic and Christian holy places.

The meeting expressed appreciation for and pride in the stand taken by the Palestinian people with all their forces, leaders, and national and Islamic sections in confronting this policy of suppression and terror, rallying around the cause of the heroic deportees, and showing determination to deter this policy and foil its objectives, to ensure the return of the deportees to their homeland and homes and the release of the detainees in accordance with the provisions of the fourth Geneva convention which prohibits expulsion, deportation, and the policy of terror, detentions and mass punishment, as well as with the recent Security Council resolution 799.

The meeting stressed that the immediate return of the deportees from their present location to their homeland and the cancellation of all the measures of deportation and expulsion are the only way to tackle this issue. The meeting also expressed its pride in the glorious steadfastness and the heroic stand showed by the brother deportees despite all the sufferings afflicting them, and stressed that it is determined that they should firmly stay in their positions until their direct return to the homeland.

The meeting highly appreciated the position of the president, government, and people of fraternal Lebanon, which favors the interests of our people and the heroic deportees and is sticking to the rules of international law. The meeting urged all Arab and Islamic forces and various international sides, bodies, and institutions which are eager for human rights and the values of freedom and justice to reinforce their solidarity with the cause of the heroic deportees in order to guarantee their return to their homeland.

The meeting stressed the need for promoting and stepping up the people's intifadah in confronting the occupation and its suppressive policy and in rebuffing all attempts to split the unity of the Palestinian ranks. It stressed eagerness to maintain national unity and the unity of the Palestinian people inside and outside on the basis of confronting the occupation with all the forms and styles of jihad, for the service of the national cause of the Palestinian people.

The meeting discussed the political process and familiarized itself with the view of the brothers of the Hamas movement, which they had presented to the Palestinian leadership in their memo, and their demand that there be a withdrawal from the negotiations, as well as the view of the brothers of the other sides. The meeting reviewed the results of the Arab five-country meeting in Cairo and its final communique which stressed the need for the return of the deportees to guarantee the resumption of the political process, and the position expressed by the PLO delegation at this meeting.

All agreed on the continuation of contact and dialogue at the service of our people and the interests of our national struggle, and on considering the meeting of the Palestinian leadership as open-ended in order to follow up developments at all levels and carry out decisions especially concerning the brother deportees, the blessed intifadah, and the jihad of our sincere and peaceful people.

The leadership addressed greetings of appreciation to fraternal Tunisia and its President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, his government and the fraternal people of Tunisia.

## 'Tangible Progress' Made

*JN2812122492 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Dec 92 pp 32, 24*

[By Musa Hawamidah]

[Text] 'Abbas Zaki, secretary of the Higher Committee of the Intifadah and member of the Fatah Central Council, has said that tangible progress was made during the meetings held in Tunis by the Palestinian leadership, with the participation of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad Organization.

In a telephone interview with AL-DUSTUR following the issuance of a final statement by the conferees, he said: We unanimously agreed to support the decision of the deportees not to be transferred to any area other than the homeland. We also praised their distinguished role, as they represent a tool to break the aggressive policy being pursued by Rabin, who falsely claims to be seeking peace.

'Abbas Zaki added: All PLO factions took part in the meetings chaired by brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] personally. The meeting was a self-inflicted blow for Rabin, since it grouped the leaders of the Palestinian people, who are today closer to each other and have more views in common.

On the issues discussed at the meeting, he said: The most important issue we reviewed was the struggle of our people in the occupied territories, and we agreed to coordinate with regard to the intifadah and all forms of struggle inside

the occupied territories. We also reviewed the decisions made by the five-party summit in Cairo, as well as Palestinian political activity in all directions.

He added: The conferees agreed to discuss disputed issues, especially with regard to the ongoing negotiations with the enemy. The meetings of the leadership will remain open to deal with any contingency.

On points of disagreement with Hamas, he said: The Hamas delegation demanded withdrawal from the negotiations. What we say is that no negotiations will take place under the current deportation.

Answering a question on his evaluation of the dialogue with Hamas concluded yesterday evening in Tunis, he said: It was very positive. We have become more enthusiastic and they more open. I said this during the meeting, and the head of the political bureau said: Yes, we are a new Fatah. We exchanged cordial speeches, and I assure you that things were very good. You can say that the meeting lived up to the current events and reflected our people's aspirations to unify their ranks to defend the homeland and unify their objective to attack the enemy. I think that we can begin the year 1993 fully confident that we are doing everything possible in domestic areas to gain more strength and assert the Palestinian presence in all fields.

Zaki emphasized the importance of this meeting, which showed the desire of the two sides to overcome differences, as well as a dire need for national unity. We have all been surprised by fast-paced developments, and this contributed to holding a meeting in good time. The results of this meeting have taken on a strategic dimension for all leaders who took part in the meeting. All speakers spoke in a very serious and responsible spirit. Thus, we can say that we reflected the aspirations of our people for unified ranks and objectives and dispelled their fears that a fifth column would once again tamper with people's safety and lives.

### Peace Talks Pullout Rejected

*NC2912113692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 29 Dec 92*

[Text] Tunis, 29 Dec (MENA)—The Fatah Movement rejected the demand of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] that it declare an immediate and final withdrawal from the Middle East peace negotiations.

'Abbas Zaki, member of Fatah's Central Committee and secretary general of the Higher Committee for the Intifadah, said that Fatah declared its full approval of all the points in the Hamas memorandum except for the point related to the immediate and final withdrawal from the peace negotiations, on the basis that the opportunity for making this withdrawal has not come yet and because the negotiations are "a political battle that the PLO can still fight."

In an interview with the Tunisian paper AL-SAHAFAH published today, Zaki said: 'Arafat told the Hamas representatives that the PLO agrees to suspend its participation in the negotiations as a condition for the return of the Palestinian deportees but it cannot agree to implement the immediate and final withdrawal which Hamas is demanding. 'Arafat explained that suspending participation in the negotiations gives the PLO a chance to undertake political actions by making the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian issue a condition for the resumption of Palestinian participation.

'Abbas Zaki underlined the importance of not leaving the arena vacant for the enemy to do as he wants alone. He said that the present political process is not limited to the Israelis and Palestinians but is a regional settlement that includes the entire Middle East region. He added: We will not let others make decisions in our absence that concern us as a Palestinian people, because all the decisions and agreements taken in the past were unfair to us.

'Abbas Zaki said that Fatah believes that the present political battle must be fought, adding that to wage this battle we need the support of all the other tools of struggle, such as the intifadah, as well as reorganizing the masses, establishing Palestinian institutions and protecting their Arabism from the Judaization actions, and confronting the Israeli settlement.

The Fatah official added: Fatah's long experience with Hamas always revolved around "confidence measures between the two sides." He added: These confidence measures require the implementation of the points agreed on, such as reactivating the intifadah, achieving national unity, and raising the level of the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy. Why should we then let the issue of the immediate and final withdrawal from the peace negotiations be the test of the relationship between us and Hamas and leave the other points agreed on?

Zaki said that he met in Amman on 6 December with official Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah and asked him three questions. The first question was: Does Hamas consider itself a world Islamic movement or a Palestinian liberation movement? If it regards itself as a world Islamic movement, it will not have priority in the dialogue with the PLO in general and with Fatah in particular. The second question was: Does Hamas consider itself an alternative to the PLO or part of it? If it regards itself as an alternative to the PLO, a dialogue with it is out of the question. The third question was: Does Hamas believe in armed struggle or in preaching and guidance?

Zaki added: Engineer Ghawshah replied to the first question by saying that Hamas is a Palestinian liberation movement but without assuling its Islamic dimension, which serves the Palestinian cause. To the second question, Ghawshah said that Hamas considers itself as part of the PLO and evidence of this is its demand to have 45 percent representation in the PLO and its establishments. To the third question, the Hamas spokesman said that his movement believes in all forms of armed struggle and that the next stage will see qualitative operations by Hamas.

## Hamas Membership in PLO

*TA2712162592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Dec 92*

[Excerpts] It has been reported from Tunis that the details of Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] incorporation into the PLO institutions will be worked out over the weekend in a meeting between representatives of the two sides in Khartoum. Hamas will only be incorporated into the intifadah's leadership after it joins the PLO. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, believes that Hamas could become part of the PLO if it accepts the majority's position in support of the peace process. Our Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck is here with more details.

[Begin recording] [Beck] [passage omitted] Detailed information about the agreements in Tunis has still not reached the territories. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said IDF radio this afternoon that it is difficult to judge whether the Hamas' future inclusion in the PLO would influence the peace talks. Only time, he said, would tell. 'Abd-al-Shafi, however, saw no reason why Hamas could not join the PLO.

['Abd-al-Shafi speaks in Arabic, followed by Beck's translation]

[Beck] 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the Hamas could be represented in the Palestine National Council [PNC] which decides on the Palestinian people's positions in a democratic manner. Decisions are made by a majority of the PNC, and if Hamas agrees to join the PNC, the Islamic movement will have to accept the will of the majority. 'Abd-al-Shafi stressed that the majority of the Palestinian public still supported the peace process. [end recording]

## Results Analyzed

*JN2912081892 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Dec 92 pp 1,5*

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Despite the disappointment voiced by hardline groups, the cold war that raged in Palestinian political circles since the Middle East peace conference began in Madrid appears to be coming to an end with a meeting attended by all Palestinian factions in Tunis last week.

For the first time since October 1991, all factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the major non-PLO group, the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), came together at the PLO headquarters in the Tunisian capital to discuss Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to Lebanon on Dec. 17.

But what was actually debated was the fate of the Palestinian struggle and unity of the Palestinian ranks.

The meeting did not produce a Palestinian withdrawal from the Arab-Israeli peace talks as demanded by the hardline groups. A PLO statement issued late Sunday acknowledged that there [were] "opinions" within the meeting on the issues of the peace talks.

There was agreement on the immediate issue of the expelled Palestinians now stranded in South Lebanon. The PLO statement said the evictees should "stay put until their direct return to their homeland."

Not all groups were happy with the outcome of the meeting.

Hamas and the hard line wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) expressed disappointment.

"With profound regret, the results of the meeting were not at the level of the challenges we are confronting...the correct response of the Palestinian leadership should have been withdrawal from the (peace) talks," 'Abd-al-Rahim Mallouh, PFLP representative on the PLO Executive Committee, said in Tunis.

The Damascus-based DFLP accused the PLO leadership of calling for a meeting of Palestinian factions only to use it as a cover for its policy of continuing peace talks with Israel.

"Most of the forces who participated in the meetings demanded withdrawal from the negotiations until Israel returned the Palestinian evictees and respected international legality," said Tayser Khalid, the DFLP representative in the PLO Executive Committee.

Hamas spokesman Muhammad Nazzal told a news conference before leaving Tunis that: "Agreement on the (evictees) was total, but the disagreement on the peace process was big."

In spite of the criticism and disappointment voiced by the hardline groups over the Tunis meeting's failure to produce a decision to withdraw Palestinian negotiators from the peace talks, the very fact that the talks, the very fact that the Palestinian groups sat down together and discussed some of the thorniest problems was in itself a breakthrough, observers say. [sentence as published]

With the exception of the ailing leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), George Habash, and the imprisoned wheel-chair confined Shaykh Ahmad Yasin of Hamas, all main Palestinian leaders were there talking together under one roof in Tunis.

For months PLO leaders in Tunis have been voicing their desire to resume a dialogue with the anti-peace talks coalition which groups 10 parties. Known as the Damascus Ten, the group made an official alliance in September of this year.

Fatah officials in Tunis and Amman complained about the "hard-headed" approach of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in particular.

"He wants the opposition under his hand without agreeing to any concessions," said Ahmad al-Jamal of the hardline wing of the DFLP.

But the expulsion of the 415 Palestinians came as "the best excuse to talk again," according to PLO officials in Tunis.

Hamas, which insisted on an official invitation from the PLO, went as soon as the invitation arrived. Nayif Hawatmah, leader of the Damascus-based DFLP also went to Tunis for the emergency meeting of Palestinian leaders.

"Those meetings were of utmost significance simply because they re-connected Palestinian ranks in the headquarters of the PLO," the head of the PLO information office in Tunis, Jamil Hilal, told the *Jordan Times*.

While the talks revolved almost entirely on the fate of those expelled, Mr. Hilal said, the "doors were open for further dialogue."

"Effectively the stone wall of opposition emanating from Damascus has been torn down as a result of the meeting this week," he added.

"Hamas signed a joint communique with the PLO and this communique was a sign that the cold war as such has ended," saw one Tunis-based PLO official.

While a late November meeting of PLO officials was boycotted by both the hardliner wing of the DFLP and PFLP, Tunis-based PLO officials claim that the two groups "were not really boycotting the PLO as such."

With Hamas talking to Mr. 'Arafat again, although some tension were reported over the issue of Mr. 'Arafat's unilateral style of negotiating with his internal opponents, others are bound to follow suit, Fatah sources say.

Depending on the outcome of a Jan. 2 Khartoum meeting, between Hamas and Fatah officials, the Hamas may even join the PNC.

Neither the PLO nor Hamas have been able to confirm the exact number of PNC seats that the two sides are expected to negotiate at the Khartoum meeting.

However, at least two sources confirmed that Hamas would be offered in the "vicinity of 20 seats" of those that represent the Palestinians in the diaspora, or 20 out of some 180 to 200 seats.

Hamas's representation among the 180 "phantom" members in the territories will be decided by "democratic means," said a PLO official in Tunis.

"If an agreement takes place I expect most of Hamas representation to come from the territories because their popular base is there," said the official. "Their popular support outside the territories is limited."

The 180 "phantom" members of the PNC in the occupied territories are expected to consist largely of elected representatives from labour unions and professional associations and other popular organisations such as the women's federation as well as the heads of the chambers of commerce and the like.

Hamas supporters picked up almost 30 per cent of the vote across the board in student and union elections in various towns and cities in the West Bank and Gaza 1st year.

"We expect that Hamas will get the same number of seats as the PFLP or (the Damascus-backed faction of the PLO) al-Sa'iqah," Mr. Hilal said.

The PFLP has around 20 seats in the diaspora part of the PNC.

The naming of the 180 PNC members in the occupied territories is not expected to take place before the spring of 1993.

Some political analysts close to the Damascus Ten fear that the PLO may want to pull Hamas into the PLO/PNC fold in preparation for an agreement with Israel.

"Mr. 'Arafat will want Hamas within his fold if he decides to make any agreement (via the negotiating team) with Israel," said an Amman-based observer.

Others argue that while Hamas also has a vested interest in being inside the PNC, it would use its option to pull out of the PNC should Mr. 'Arafat and the negotiators choose to agree to a framework that Hamas fundamentally objects to.

"Hamas is in a position of power because it can pull out of any agreement with the PLO even if the group chooses to join the PNC," said another observer who is close to Hamas.

But many political analysts say the real question is if the PLO- backed negotiating team can afford to come to terms with Israel without the explicit approval of Hamas and other leading members of the Damascus Ten.

## Situation of Deportees Updated; 'Act of War' Seen

*NC261218092 Paris AFP in English 1233 GMT 26 Dec 92*

[Report by Nagib Khaznikaj]

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, Dec 26 (AFP)—Palestinian deportees, including the sick and wounded, shivered with cold as snow fell on their camp and the International Red Cross vowed Saturday to urge Israel or Lebanon to allow in supplies.

"The wounded, the sick and the old shivered with cold all night. Kerosene for the heaters has almost run out and we are keeping the rest for the medical tent," said 'Abd-al-Mun'im Lubani, one of the 415 whom Israel deported last week.

The deportees complained of the Lebanese government's decision Friday to force the sick and three others—wounded in a clash with a pro-Israeli militia—back to the camp in no-man's land.

But they still support Beirut's refusal to admit most of them because they said it puts pressure on Israel to accept full responsibility for their fate.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will ask Israel and Lebanon to allow supplies to reach the deportees from areas under their control, ICRC delegate to Lebanon, Bernard Pfefferle, said.

"The ICRC will submit as quickly as possible a number of proposals to the Israeli and Lebanese governments to try to aid the deportees," Pfefferle told AFP at the emergency ICRC headquarters in Lebanon's eastern al-Biqa' valley.

He gave no details.

Israel on Friday rejected an ICRC request to send aid convoys through Israel's self-declared security zone in south Lebanon, while Lebanon stood firm on its opposition to sending aid through areas it controls.

Pfefferle said he would visit the camp to enquire about the health of eight sick and wounded deportees forced back to the camp.

"There are 20 doctors among the deportees and we had time to give them a wide array of medicine last weekend, but the bitter cold and the snow in the area now is worrying me," Pfefferle said.

Besides dwindling supplies of heating oil, the deportees are running low on food and have no drinking water.

Ahmad Jamal, seriously wounded in the jaw Monday when the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army militia fired on the deportees, was being kept on an intravenous drip in a poorly-heated tent.

"I need a vacuum to remove the pus from his mouth and we do not have enough liquid products to feed him properly," said Lahad, a doctor.

The two other wounded and the five sick—including one suffering from kidney trouble—are set up two in a tent. Their comrades sewed together five blankets to make a warm quilt.

Suffering from cold "which prevents us from sleeping," the deportees said they were shocked and surprised when the Lebanese army brought back the sick and wounded from the hospital.

"I denounce the expeditious way they were transferred without respect for basic medical rules," said Lahad, who was at the hospital near Rashayya when the patients were sent back.

Shaykh 'Abdallah Shami said he was sorry about the "harsh" behavior of his "Lebanese brothers," adding they could have provided special treatment for the sick and wounded.

Israel deported the Palestinians for having links with Muslim fundamentalist groups that killed five Israeli soldiers earlier this month.

In Tunis, an adviser to Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat denounced as "an act of war" the refusal by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir [as received] to allow aid to reach the deportees.

Bassam Abu-Sharif said the refusal "flagrantly violates the Fourth Geneva Convention" which governs an occupying power's treatment of people under its control.

He urged the Israeli government to "treat the issue with restraint" and asked the United States to "act to ensure international law is respected."

The PLO has called for intensifying the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories as well as suspending the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks until Israel takes back the deportees.

The deportees want the PLO, which directs the peace negotiations from the sidelines, to end the talks entirely.

## No Negotiations Without Gesture Toward Detainees

*TA2812170392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck]

[Text] Only an Israeli gesture—even a partial one—toward the deportees will allow the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table. This was made clear tonight by Gaza Strip elements who are close to the Palestinian peace delegation.

The elements added that in recent days, the committee of attorneys representing the deportees handed the Southern Command commander and Gaza Strip Civil Administration heads a proposal under which the authorities will bring back from south Lebanon those deportees against whom they have no evidence of activities on behalf of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or the Islamic Jihad. The percentage of persons deported without any justifiable cause, according to the Gaza Strip attorneys, is over 50 percent of the deportees.

It is being said in the Gaza Strip that Israel can explain away the partial return by humanitarian or legal reasons, and it can even announce that it will move some of the deportees to administrative detention at their homes. In the present situation, Israel will not lack for pretexts. It is said that a new Army order will cancel the appeal procedures applicable to a considerable number of deportees. That way, the deportees will not have to wait two months before they can petition the special appeals committee.

If Israel takes these steps, the Palestinians will be able to consider favorably resuming the peace talks at the beginning of February. The Israeli steps would weaken the pressure of the Palestinian public, and as for the Israeli public, its feelings were in any case assuaged by the deportation act. In this context, Strip sources stress that the deportation was carried out mainly for domestic Israeli consumption, as neither the arrests nor the deportations damaged the Hamas or the Islamic Jihad's infrastructure.

## PLO Urges World 'To Force' Israeli Compliance

*NC2812164192 Sharqiyah Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has met with PLO representative in Beirut Shafiq al-Hut and Taysir Qub'ah, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council. Discussion focused on the deportees issue.

Qub'ah pointed out that the Security Council resolution lacks an implementation mechanism and said: We now demand that the council find a mechanism to implement the resolution concerning the deportees.

Replying to a question, he said: I do not believe that Israel is benefiting from the transition period between Bush and Clinton. Israel has not implemented any of the UN resolutions.

He urged the international community not to use a duplicitous policy. The international community, he said, implemented its resolutions concerning Iraq and other countries but has not taken a single measure to implement its resolution on Israel.

He asked the Arab countries and international community to take measures to force Israel to implement UN resolutions. He noted that the official Arab situation is not qualified to take serious steps regarding pan-Arab causes and that this regrettable Arab position is what led to such results. He praised Lebanon's official stand on the deportees issue.

## Palestinian Representatives Meet With UN Envoy

*TA2812163792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] James Jonah, the special envoy of the UN secretary general, today met with Palestinian representatives, who demanded to be allowed to make an immediate transfer via Israeli territory of supplies and medical equipment to the deportees. In about an hour, Jonah will meet with representatives of terror victims' families. Udi Segal, our correspondent in the territories, reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] UN Under Secretary General James Jonah's conference with a Palestinian representatives was held at Orient House, the Palestinian delegation's East Jerusalem residence, and lasted from this morning well into the afternoon. The representatives included Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, as well as representatives of factions that do not support the peace process, such as Riyad al-Malki, who is identified with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Nihad al-Masri from Nablus, affiliated with Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement).

The Palestinians presented Jonah with their unequivocal position that the deportees should be returned immediately. For the immediate future, they demanded that Israel permit supplies for the deportees to be moved through the security zone in southern Lebanon. Here is what Hanan 'Ashrawi said:

['Ashrawi, in English] The access to the deportees should be gained through Israel to the so-called security zone, and not through Lebanon. ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] should be allowed to visit them through Israel. We also asked him that he should visit the deportees from Israel, and not from Lebanon.

[Segal translates the above and continues] Asked by the Palestinians about his meeting with Rabin, Jonah pointed out that the specifics of the meeting were not for publication, and that a comprehensive report would be compiled after a visit to the deportees' encampment and presented to the UN secretary general only.

The Palestinians said the deportees are intellectuals who have not been formally charged with anything, and who therefore have been subjected to collective punishment. Their opposition to the peace process does not matter, 'Ashrawi said. Palestinian society is democratic, and this is one pretext Israel will be unable to use.

As for the possibility to move the deportees to a third country, the Palestinians said unequivocally: Absolutely not.

['Ashrawi, in English] The position is that the deportees should be returned to their own country. There is no reason why they should be deported in the first place, and we don't see any reason why they should be sent to a third country anyway. The only place they should be sent to is back to their homes and families.

[Segal translates and continues] Prior to departure for the deportee camp in southern Lebanon, UN Under Secretary General James Jonah will meet with representatives of terror victims' families at the American Colony Hotel in East Jerusalem. [end recording]

## Consider Meeting With Rabin

*TA2912172092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks have said that the delegates will take a favorable view of the idea of meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin if they receive an official invitation.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck notes that despite the deportation of Hamas [Islamic Resistance

Movement] activists, Palestinian delegates do not rule out a meeting with Rabin outright.

### 'Arafat Sees Impasse in Peace Process

*LD2812181992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has called for consolidating Palestinian national unity among all the factions and forces of our Palestinian people in support of the heroic national intifadah which has entered its sixth year with all the vigor and heroism, wave after wave, blaze after blaze, and surge after surge, until the establishment of the Palestinian state.

The brother president leader Abu-'Ammar added in a speech he made yesterday at the opening of the proceedings of the administrative council of the Palestinian artists union: The peace process in the Middle East, which started in Madrid, is now witnessing a true impasse, and has become threatened by failure and stagnation because of the intransigence, practices, and continuous Israeli rejection to adhere to the bases and the starting points of the peace process.

The brother president leader Abu-'Ammar dealt in his speech with the deteriorating conditions from which our Palestinian people are suffering as a result of the Israeli occupation, which is imposing a comprehensive siege on our people in addition to deporting more than 400 Palestinian struggles.

Brother president leader Abu-'Ammar requested the international community and the UN Security Council permanent members to observe the need to implement all the resolutions for securing international protection for our people, to send international observers to the occupied territories, and to pay attention to the need to adopt urgent and prompt measures to implement Resolution 799.

In this respect, he saluted the stance and the heroic decision issued by the steadfast deportees in the al-'Awdah camp to continue staying in their camp until their return to their homeland, Palestine.

### Says Talks at 'Crossroad'

*JN2912064892 Amman Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has declared that by deporting hundreds of Palestinian citizens from their homeland, Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister of the enemy entity, wishes to change the game. He added that the peace negotiations are at a crossroad because of the policy of intransigence and terrorism pursued by the occupation authorities against the sons of our Palestinian people in the occupied territories in an attempt to benefit from international changes.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar indicated that in their recent meeting in Cairo, the foreign ministers of the Arab combat states decided to act to abort the Rabin scheme aimed at changing the bases of the peace process, which are Bush's initiative, UN Security Council Resolution 242 and 338, and the establishment of our Palestinian people's national rights. These remarks were made in a speech delivered by brother President Abu-'Ammar during a seminar for solidarity with the Palestinian intifadah held by the Arab Teachers Union, which is currently holding its 14th conference in Tunis. Brother Abu-'Ammar affirmed that the Americans can bring the Israelis to their senses if they so wish. However, Abu-'Ammar went on, the game is not over, and Rabin wants to obtain the price of the vote of 85 percent of Jewish Americans in favor of Clinton.

After elaborating on [words indistinct] our Palestinian people [words indistinct] repression, torture, killing, mass deportations, and arbitrary detentions, brother President Abu-'Ammar affirmed that the blessed intifadah will continue wave after wave until all our Palestinian people's objectives are achieved and their inalienable rights are established.

Concluding, brother President Abu-'Ammar described the Arab nation's conditions as difficult, painful, and [word indistinct]. He said that the Arab nation is currently at a crossroad. He called for healing wounds and renouncing differences in order to confront the challenges and build a prosperous future and happy life in the interest of the Arab nation.

### Intifadah Leaders Ask Hamas To Join 'Movement'

*TA2912135292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Dec 92 p A5*

[Report by Yoni Torpstein]

[Excerpt] The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI] invited Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to join it in order "to coordinate and unite the efforts of the national movement, and to increase the struggle of our people against the occupation."

This was written in a special leaflet issued by UNLI on Monday this week. In addition, the leaflet calls to "open pan-Palestinian talks, with the aim of uniting all Palestinian organizations under the PLO framework." The leaflet stressed that "there is no way back from the intifadah option," and that "the struggle should be increased in every street and village."

Last Thursday, when the 415 Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists were deported, UNLI and Hamas issued a joint manifesto which declared the beginning of operational coordination on the issue of deportees and the anti-Israel struggle in the territories, but the implementation of this coordination has not been successful to date. [passage omitted]

## Arab Party Leader, Israeli Knesset Member on Deportation

*NC2912092992 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 29 Dec 92*

[Telephone interview with 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawishah, leader of the Arab Democratic Party and member of the Israeli Knesset, in Jerusalem, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd in Cairo; date not given—recorded]; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program]

[Excerpt] [Shihatah] Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab, welcome to the air waves of the Voice of the Arabs.

[Darawishah] Thank you, and I convey my warm greetings to you in Cairo and to all in the Arab homeland.

[Shihatah] Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawishah, this scandalous situation and the Israeli decision to deport more than 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories have been condemned by various regional and international institutions. The UN Security Council has also adopted Resolution 799 in this regard. What is the current situation in the occupied territories?

[Darawishah] We have condemned this abominable crime, which runs counter to human values, international charters, and the Fourth Geneva Convention. We have urged and are still urging the Israeli Government to reverse this unjust decision and allow the brother deportees to return to their homes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

We have also raised this issue during several Knesset sessions. We also met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and urged him to revoke this decision and to allow the deportees to return. We staged demonstrations and observed a one-day strike in a bid to allow medication, food, and heating equipment to reach the deportees in southern Lebanon. Furthermore, we visited the kinsfolk in the steadfast Gaza Strip and declared our solidarity with the deportees' families.

We submitted three appeals to the Israeli High Court on behalf of the Arab Democratic Party. In the first appeal, which we submitted last week, we demanded that all deportees be returned. Regrettably, the court, which has seven judges, turned down our request and refused to return the deportees.

We submitted our second appeal yesterday. We requested permission to send food, medication, and heating equipment through the Red Cross via the so-called security belt in southern Lebanon, which is occupied by Israel. The court will look into this issue tomorrow.

We submitted our third appeal today. We requested the High Court to order the Israeli Government and chief of staff to return the sick and injured deportees. The chief of staff last week pledged before the court to guarantee medical treatment of the deportees. Since there is no side that can guarantee medical treatment, the Israeli High Court must, therefore, order the government and Army to guarantee the return of the injured and sick deportees.

[Shihatah] Mr. Darawishah, Israel has turned down the International Red Cross' request to give aid to the deportees. What is the current situation in the occupied territories, particularly since Israel is seeking behind this deportation to weaken the intifadah. Can Israel achieve this goal?

[Darawishah] This cannot be achieved by deportation and conducting further persecution. Regrettably, more martyrs of our sons have fallen. This is a very painful and regrettable thing. It will neither benefit Israel's security nor the Israeli people. Therefore, we believe that the solution rests in Israel's recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the PLO as a sole and legitimate representative of this people, and negotiating with the PLO to establish a just and comprehensive peace in this region. This would end the bloodshed and terminate this bloody struggle, which is affecting all the region's people, including the Israeli people. We are trying to convince the Knesset, the government, and the public in Israel that the solution rests in establishing peace, recognizing the Palestinians' rights, and terminating occupation, and not through additional persecution and killing. [passage omitted]

## Official Welcomes Israeli Party's Desire for Talks

*NC2712120092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 27 Dec 92*

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, the Palestine National Council secretary, has welcomed the desire of the majority of the Israeli Labor Party members to hold direct talks with the PLO.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Subayh said that this represents something good and a clear signal to all the fanatics in Israel who so far do not want to recognize the truth; namely, that the PLO is the Palestinian people's legitimate leadership. He added: The Israeli fanatics should realize that the PLO is the architect of the current peace process and that it has taken bold steps in this direction. He said that the Israeli Government has to hold direct contacts with the PLO at the highest levels to protect the peace process.

Subayh called on the new U.S. Administration to restore the dialogue with the PLO to serve the peace process and achieve stability in the region.

## Bethlehem Mayor: We Cannot Go on Living in Conflict

*TA2412180592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Dec 92*

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has said that although the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists is a harsh move, unacceptable by even the moderate Palestinians, he believes that the current Israeli Government is moderate and able to promote peace. Frayj made the remarks in a private meeting he held today with Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am, who visited Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. Frayj said that we cannot go on living in conflict, and that a lot of wisdom and courage is needed to bring about peace because Israel and the Palestinians will have to live here together always.

## Egypt

### Mubarak News Conference Emphasizes Stability

*NC2312220392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Dec 92*

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak has emphasized that the internal situation in Egypt is quite stable and that Egypt is safer than many other countries in the world. At a news conference in Luxor today with correspondents of foreign news agencies, newspapers, and radios, he said Egypt wants good relations with all countries, including Iran. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question on the Middle East peace process, President Mubarak said the peace process will continue, as the majority of citizens in this part of the world know the meaning of the word peace. He added that if there are parties seeking to halt the peace process, we should not pay attention to them and must pursue the peace process. He noted that the peace process might take some time, but we will arrive at peace.

Commenting on the challenges facing Egypt as the year 1992 draws to a close, Mubarak said the main challenge is economic development and that we have a very good program for economic development. He added: Our economy is growing and within a year and a half there will be an upturn in the economy. We are doing our utmost and have taken numerous steps toward economic reform to better the living conditions of the poor classes to which we devote all attention.

### Prime Minister's Address on Foreign Policy

*NC2812144592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1021 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Government policy statement delivered by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi to the People's Assembly in Cairo—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our foreign policy is established on firm and realistic bases that serve the supreme national interest and principles. Our course of action is based on objectivity and reason and this has given Egypt international status. The entire world respects its policy and its leadership's wisdom. This was clearly evidenced by the backing and support Egypt received in the wake of the 12 October 1992 earthquake.

Our foreign action has gone beyond the phase of reaction to one of initiative and positive action. Our policy has become a leading one in many international spheres and circles and this has enabled Egyptians to occupy prominent responsible positions in major international and regional organizations.

Brother and sister members of the People's Assembly. To talk about foreign policy achievements since your last session would take time, so I will limit myself to a quick glance at the most important axes of our foreign policy.

There is first the Arab axis. There is the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Our stand on this issue is clear and principled: full defense of the Palestinian people's rights. At the same time, we fully support the peaceful efforts to resolve the Palestinian issue. I do not want to get into many details here because they are known to you. [chants in the background] Really, I can't talk with such an interruption.

On this occasion, Egypt emphasizes its total rejection of the mass deportation of Palestinians by the Israeli Government. [applause] Egypt has held contacts at various levels with the Israeli leadership to convey to it the grave consequences of this illegal measure for the peace process. It called on the Israeli Government to rescind its decision, to allow all the deported Palestinians to return to their homeland, to respect international legitimacy, to implement Security Council Resolution 799, and to ensure the immediate return of all the deportees.

Egypt also contacted the cosponsors of the peace conference, the Security Council chairman, and the UN secretary general and asked them to implement the Security Council resolution quickly, shoulder their responsibilities, and draw up a mechanism and a specific timetable for implementation that ensures the return of the deportees to their lands and homes.

Regarding the Gulf countries, you are aware of Egypt's constant stand on the Arab Gulf issues. Egypt is concerned about ensuring complete security in this region. Egypt denounces Iran's occupation of Abu Musa island and it supports the United Arab Emirates's rights, as you know, and this is recorded in the government's statement. Regarding the Arab east, we maintain the best possible relations with this region with certain minor exceptions that you are aware of. We are in the heart of the Arab east and our role is extremely important. We will absolutely not (?give up) any issue in this region.

Regarding the Arab Maghreb, you are aware of Egypt's stand on all the Arab Maghreb countries. Our ties are very good with all these countries. King Hassan II visited Egypt. The Egyptian-Libyan committee met. The Egyptian-Tunisian committee will meet next month. All these matters indicate that we have the best possible relations with these countries.

Regarding events in Libya, you know and follow up the enormous efforts President Mubarak has exerted and the intensive contacts he held to solve the dispute between Libya and the Western countries peacefully. We hope that this goal will be achieved.

Regarding Sudan, Egyptian-Sudanese relations are unique as an eternal bond links them. Out of our concern over these ties, the joint committee met to discuss the border issue between the two countries. The joint committee on the borders between the two countries met in Cairo at the end of October 1992. The talks will be resumed shortly.

The current instability in the ties between the two countries is due to Sudanese policies that allowed non-African and non-Arab parties to affect the stability of neighboring countries.

Regarding Somalia, Egypt dispatched forces to take part in the initial monitoring mission and dispatched other forces recently to take part in restoring peace and quiet to Somalia. I want to say that as a rule Egypt's foreign policy on the Arab world is to ensure that relations are the best they can be. Egypt's relations are good with some minor exceptions that you are aware of. The government cooperates closely with the Arab League. Regarding Egypt's relations with the Islamic world, there has recently been an increase in the number of independent Islamic states with the independence of the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union and Bosnia-Hercegovina. This prompted Egypt to increase its interest in this area. Egypt cooperated with all popular and international efforts to stop the bloodshed of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Our forces took part in the peacekeeping operations there. Egypt is still working on all levels and in international groups to support Muslim rights in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The latest effort was the meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization in Saudi Arabia in November.

Egypt also attaches special importance to economic cooperation with these countries—the countries that gained independence from the former Soviet Union. Cairo will host a conference of experts within the framework of the Islamic Conference Organization to discuss a new strategy for cooperation among the Islamic countries.

The Albanian and Uzbek presidents visited us recently and your are aware that most of the people in Albania and Uzbekistan are Muslims.

As for the third axis—the African axis, which reflects Egypt's organic affiliation with the African Continent—our policy's eagerness to follow an objective path is in line with and absorbs all international and regional changes to achieve development and stability on this continent. Therefore, we follow up all democratic changes, carefully observe the ongoing conflicts in the African countries, and work hard to resolve them peacefully.

Egypt took part in the African summit in Dakar in June and the next African summit will be held in Cairo in June 1993, God willing. Egypt also pursues its policy aimed at consolidating cooperation with the Nile Basin countries known as the Undugo [Swahili word for brotherhood]. Within this context, Egypt encourages Ethiopia to join this grouping and helps it as much as possible to achieve stability and development. In assertion of this, the president visited Ethiopia in February 1992 and the Egyptian-Ethiopian joint committee will meet on 2 January under the chairmanship of the two prime ministers for the first time.

On another level, Egypt attaches great importance to its relations with Eritrea and we have a mission in Asmara to follow up on the situation there. We also extend technical assistance to that growing state in assertion of solidarity with it and to activate its economic development.

Our policy in general is based on the need to eliminate the manifestations of racial discrimination in Africa and achieve a democratic system that guarantees equality among all people in South Africa.

As for the Asia axis, we care about this axis. Last year witnessed a special interest in Asia, especially the six member- states of the ASEAN grouping for trade and economic exchange. In fact, we try to use these six tigers as models of economic development, particularly in exports.

You know that the president was on a visit to China as part of a scheduled Asian tour, but his excellency decided to return immediately to Egypt as soon as the earthquake happened.

As for Iran, the policy it adopted with the United Arab Emirates and its occupation of Abu Musa island have revealed the trends of this regime and its desire for hegemony and intervention in other countries' internal affairs. Egypt does not, and will not, agree to this policy [applause] or to Iran's policies supporting and encouraging terrorism and violence. We have the best ties with the Iranian people but we reject what I have mentioned.

In the Egyptian-European sphere, relations between us and Europe, especially Western Europe, are really very good. The government is following with interest developments in the EC since the signing of the Maastricht Treaty and the possibility of a united European market coming into existence at the start of 1993. This will affect our exports and our relations with the EC states. There is a possibility of an enlargement of the EC membership. In other words, the EC will no longer be composed of 12 states. There is a possibility of Austria and Switzerland joining. Therefore, we must strengthen our relations with the EC. President Mubarak's visit to Portugal in April 1992 and his visits to other European capitals are an affirmation of these tendencies and are in support of the march toward cooperation with these states.

Periodically, Egypt receives the leaders and ministers of these states. We have received British Prime Minister John Major and the French prime minister. We have received foreign, industry, trade, and economy ministers from most West European states.

Our relations with the United States are excellent and constantly growing. There have been several meetings, contacts, and exchanges of visits between the two sides at the highest levels to strengthen our cooperative relations, which are based on mutual respect and confidence. These relations are being constantly strengthened in the service of our Arab causes and in support of the peace efforts until the peace march achieves its goal of establishing a just and permanent peace in the Middle East.

The U.S. Administration will change on 20 January. We note here, however, U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton's assertion that there will be no change in the United States'

firm support for the peace efforts in the region and that U.S. policy depends on national interests rather than the policy of one individual.

Our relations with Latin America are good. Trade relations may be limited but political relations are good. Regarding the Nonaligned Movement, Egypt's role in this movement is prominent. You followed the Jakarta Conference in September. There is one single negative aspect in this movement, namely the position of former Yugoslavia, currently Serbia, on Bosnia-Hercegovina. This position is unacceptable. [passage omitted]

### Islamic Jihad: Government Responsible for Prisoners

*NC2412184692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Dec 92*

[Text] The Islamic Jihad in Palestine yesterday evening held the Egyptian regime responsible for the safety of five members who are on a hunger strike in Egyptian jails. REUTER said that the Islamic Jihad movement said in a statement that five of its members are on hunger strike protesting their two years of detention in Egyptian prisons. The statement said that the Egyptian regime accused the five members of trying to enter occupied Palestine through Egyptian territory and to back the intifadah against the Zionist entity.

### 'Extremists' Arrested in Cairo, al-Qalyubiyah

*NC2612121792 Cairo AL-AHRAM NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1041 GMT 26 Dec 92*

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (AL-AHRAM NEWS AGENCY)—Security organs in Cairo have arrested 11 members of the extremist groups linked with al-Jihad Organization as they were practicing martial arts in 15 May city. The arrested men, who are led by an engineer by the name of Muhammad Sami 'Ali Husayn, are wanted for involvement in recent incidents.

Investigations had indicated that the extremists fled from [the Cairo suburbs of] Heliopolis and al-Zaytun to 15 May to avoid being caught by the police and to practice martial arts, Swedish movements, karate, and kung fu. The extremists have been referred to the State Security Investigation Office for interrogation to determine the extent of their involvement in recent incidents.

Al-Qalyubiyah security sources have arrested nine men charged with involvement in recent incidents in Imbabah following a boat chase on the Nile. Security organs monitoring al-Qalyubiyah Governorate's borders in implementation of the instructions of Major General Usamah Dubbus, assistant interior minister for al-Qalyubiyah security, noticed three motorboats coming from al-Jizah. When police approached the boats, the extremists claimed to be fishermen and tried to speed away. Security forces arrested them and found them in possession of large quantities of weapons.

Al-Qalyubiyah security organs arrested 29 other extremists in several sweeps in al-Khankah, Abu-Za'bal, Shubra al-Khaymah, Qalyub, and al-Khanus. The Central Security Forces, Criminal Investigation Department, and State Security Department took part in the sweeps.

### MENA, KUNA Sign Cooperation Agreement

*NC2712130592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1248 GMT 27 Dec 92*

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA)—An agreement on media cooperation and exchange of news was signed today between MENA and KUNA as part of the bolstering of cooperation between the two agencies and the strong relations between the two governments and fraternal countries.

The agreement was signed for MENA by Mustafa Najib, chairman of the Board of Directors and chief editor, and for KUNA by Yusuf al-Sumayt, chairman of the Board of Directors and director general of KUNA, who currently is visiting Cairo heading a Kuwaiti delegation.

The agreement stipulates the exchange of newscasts between the two agencies and providing technical facilities to the two bureaus in Cairo and Kuwait, such as receiving news reports.

The agreement stipulates cooperation between MENA and KUNA regarding the coverage of visits by officials from the two countries and international, regional, or national events and occasions in either of the two states.

The agreement also calls for the exchange of news photographs covering all aspects of political, economic, social, and sports activities in the two countries.

In addition, it calls for the exchange of visits by the editors of the two news agencies to familiarize themselves with how each agency operates.

The signing ceremony was attended by members of the delegation accompanying the KUNA board chairman and director general, and a number of MENA's deputy chief editors.

## Tunisia

### Ben Ali Addresses Deputies on Economy, Elections

*LD2712152192 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1039 GMT 27 Dec 92*

[Address by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to the Chamber of Deputies in Tunis—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Mr. Speaker, deputies, citizens: I wanted to speak to you and to the Tunisian people on some important matters, as

is the custom we have followed in our policy and as an embodiment of the provisions of the Constitution.

It gives me pleasure to convey my thanks and appreciation to this honorable Council—its speaker and members—and to all those who work in it. I praise the great efforts that are made in this Chamber as an effective contribution to enhance the course of change and reform. The legislative side of it assumed great importance, being an expression of the collective will of the people. These efforts were not confined to the study and debate of the budget, but they were evident in the persistent work that continued, whether in connection with examining the draft bills that were submitted to it or within the sessions that took place with a number of ministers. [passage omitted]

Out of our attachment to the process of entrenching the rule of law and to ensuring that these laws serve the purpose for which they have been compiled and in order to be in harmony with the Constitution, we have developed the Constitutional Council. Now it is capable of coping with its full and effective role in studying the draft bills.

For example, the Constitutional Council proposed to us in 1991 to amend seven draft bills out of a total of 19 bills submitted to it. In 1992, it proposed amendment of 20 draft bills out of a total of 29. As a result of this compact preparation of the draft bills that was embarked upon by government institutions, the consultation with the constitutional council, and the process of acting upon its opinion on them, it has become easy for the Chamber of Deputies to ratify these bills after the Chamber is reassured about them from the constitutional point of view.

Another aspect of this earnest work is that the debate of the budget every year provides an excellent opportunity for a profound dialogue between the two branches of authority. One thing that not many people are aware of is the fact that the Chamber acts in accordance with its own rules and procedures, which start with specialized committees and end with general sessions. [passage omitted]

Therefore, sometimes it is imagined or rather some people want to give the impression that those bills have been passed without much scrutiny or thought. Sometimes, some people imagine or pretend that these issues are debated and endorsed without deep examination or thought. [passage omitted]

Regarding the budget, in addition to the figures and technical forecasts, it represents an opportunity for an extended review of the situation in all sectors and fields. The budget debates also represent an occasion for the deputies to express their opinions and proposals, voice the concern of citizens vis-a-vis those sectors and topics, and listen to the government's clarifications on its choices and directions. [passage omitted]

The main characteristic of this budget is the continuing attention accorded to social sectors that represent the constants of our general policy. Consequently, the budget represents a positive impetus for economic development and an effective element in the materialization of social justice.

Citizens, since the change of 7 November, we managed to introduce more vitality and effectiveness to our economy and provided it with the suitable climate for reviving the spirit of initiative in all sectors of production. [passage omitted]

Out of our desire to further encourage investments by reducing the costs of loans, during the past months we reduced the interest rate by 0.5 percent; during the new year, another 0.5 percent cut will follow. This is an added significant effort to encourage savings and guarantee a minimum return. [passage omitted]

It is of course obvious that investments and exports need for their necessary growth a liberal economic atmosphere in which all sorts of obstacles to the freedom of initiative and the market are lifted, including the mechanism of money exchange operations.

Citizens, we have decided to make the Tunisian dinar convertible during the next year. [Applause]

This is a fresh and a very important measure to be added to the liberal measures that have been taken in order to control the mechanisms of money exchange operations. The aim behind our coherent economic policies is to see the measure of freeing the dinar positively influencing all business people who would consider it as a fresh and fundamental step in the efforts aiming at improving the climate for investments and the conditions under which companies have to operate.

For this very reason, we have ordered a review of all bills relating to the mechanism of money exchange in order to cancel all previous licenses that companies have to obtain before entering into foreign deals needed in the course of their operation. This measure would include a number of services which are, in particular, related to foreign trade and foreign technical aid.

We have also ordered that the transfer of money abroad by ministries and public institutions, carried out within the framework of deals agreed upon by concerned bodies, should be freed. We have also ordered that the amount of money transferred abroad to cover expenses incurred by students abroad should be increased, as well as to increase the tourism allowance of citizens traveling abroad. Those measures, which are aiming at freeing deals with foreign countries, should be enough to make the Tunisian dinar a convertible currency as international bodies would understand it. It will, furthermore, bolster the good reputation of the Tunisian economy in international markets and lend more credibility to our economic policies. [passage omitted]

In connection with external investment, we have canceled the prior permits when invested sums have actually been transferred, as well as for their surplus values and yields.

We are endeavoring to further encourage exporting establishments, and to consolidate their breathing capabilities by significantly increasing their [retained] share of the foreign currency earned by their export to be used in paying for goods and services imports, thus minimizing the effects of exchange rates risks to their operations.

Out of our conviction that consolidating exports remains connected with control over the means of distribution in the external markets, we have allowed exporters to invest abroad in operations connected with their activities which respond to the prerequisites of effectiveness and usefulness, and bring benefits to the national economy.

Due to our belief in the principal role of the banking system in executing the operation of setting the dinar free, we have invited it to consolidate its training capabilities and expertise so as to be able to carry out the transfers pertaining to the transactions connected with the liberalized operations, and to mobilize external financial resources to finance exports and establishments' projects. It will be gradually permitted to bring in external financial resources without obtaining prior permission.

Parallel to the decrease in exchange control measures, setting free the dinar requires developing processes and modernizing our national currency. Therefore, we are endeavoring to set up a Tunisian exchange market in regulated stages during which banks will be able to dispose more freely of foreign currency assets while observing the rules of tight management.

Citizens, we rely on all the national energies to understand very well these pioneering liberalization measures, which constitute a distinctive qualitative jump in the principles of monitoring the exchange operation with the outside world. We count on the spirit of responsibility which they enjoy, to use them in consolidating the productive capability of our economy, to enable us to achieve development at the rate required from us by the various challenges. Our success in this action, in addition to clarity of vision and the wisdom of this approach, remains dependent on the ability of all the economic sides to intensify their efforts in the promotion of exports and the strengthening of the breathing ability of our economy in a world of ever growing competition. [passage omitted]

Citizens, economic and social work interacts with and complements political action. This is why we have always taken into account the link between the various elements of comprehensive development. We believe in the organic relationship between development and democracy. We have worked for developing the laws and the political procedures to match the development of society.

Therefore, on 31 December last year, I announced the creation of specialized committees to examine the revision of the press law, develop the gains of the family and women, and reexamine the method of voting in legislative elections. These committees have completed their work. We announced the decisions that concern the gains of the family and women on 13 August, and on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the change, the committee on the law on the press took its turn.

Today we declare, with regard to the electoral bill, that we have decided that the administrative circles concerned should, in addition to declaring the start and the end of review of the electoral lists, concentrate on announcing this declaration during the whole period of review via radio and television during suitable times for listening, and in addition all the media organs should be doing the same until the same provisions of the electoral bill that are connected to this chapter have been reviewed. We are declaring this because the current text is confined to the necessity of announcing the start and end of the review.

We have also decided to abolish uncontested elections with regard to the nomination of candidates in the legislative elections lists. The state will undertake to print the voting cards and to distribute them to voting booths. With regard to the expenses of the election campaign, we have decided to set aside a sum of money for each electoral list nominated at an election district; part of the money is paid to it at the time of starting the campaign. [passage omitted]

Democracy and its laws must be built on respect for election times as prescribed by the Constitution. Also, as the will of the people and the institutions should be respected, so the electoral process must be accorded its due importance.

The will which drives us to embody political pluralism in the Chamber of Deputies must not be met by hurrying things and bending the constitutional provisions in order to bring forward the elections by a few months. The provisions of the Constitution in this respect are clear and binding. The parliamentary period is decided as five years. In no way should these imperative provisions be breached by other legal provisions which are less in stature and standing.

We are announcing hereby that the legislative and presidential elections will be held as scheduled, that is, in the second half of March 1994. However, as far as the constitutional provision is concerned which stipulates that the first session of the parliamentary term should begin during the first half of November, given that the last elections were early, and given that there is no provision for such a situation in the transitional clauses of the constitutional law of 25 July 1988, we are going to propose to the Chamber of Deputies a draft constitutional law to deal with this to normalize the situation.

Out of our eagerness to provide real opportunities for expressing political pluralism in the Chamber of Deputies in specific form with the representation of the political sides that have weight and influence in society, we have decided to amend the electoral code in this direction, thereby guaranteeing a transitional period and a qualitative step toward pluralism in this constitutional institution. The system which we have arrived at provides, in the first stage, for the fixing of a total number of seats for the Chamber of Deputies on the basis of one seat for each specific population density base. Then this total number of

seats is divided into two: a number of seats allocated for electoral constituencies, and a number of seats distributed at national level. The number of seats for constituencies is fixed on the basis of a population density base larger than the one already adopted. The difference between the total number of seats and the number of seats allocated for constituencies will be distributed at national level.

With regard to the seats allocated for constituencies, there will be a majority vote on lists of candidates to win all seats. As for the seats allocated at national level, the votes cast will be added up which will not have enabled lists of candidates to win seats at the level of a constituency or constituencies. The electoral denominator will then be fixed on the basis of this sum of votes cast, and the seats will be distributed according to the proportional representation system.

We believe that this system will embody political pluralism in the Chamber of Deputies on the lines of what in fact exists in Tunisian society, which has plenty of competent people and of views. The national pact constitutes the most honorable manifestation of these competent people and views, and their consensus to serve the interest of the country in a climate of concord. [passage omitted]

## Kuwait

### Minister Comments on Talks with Eagleburger

*LD2912134892 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1210 GMT 24 Dec 92*

[Text] Washington, 24 Dec (KUNA)—Kuwaiti information minister and former ambassador to the United States, Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, has discussed with U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger the Iraqi regime's refusal to release hundreds of Kuwaiti prisoners and hostages and the measures that the international community should take regarding this issue. This was done during a farewell visit paid yesterday by Shaykh Sa'ud to the U.S. secretary of state in the framework of his meetings with U.S. officials and members of the Congress.

In a statement to KUNA, the minister of information said: The meeting, which lasted an hour, focused largely on the Iraqi regime's noncompliance with the UN Security Council's resolutions, particularly its refusal to return hundreds of Kuwaitis it is still holding. He added: We discussed the measures that should be taken by the international community regarding this. However, he did not give any details about the nature of the measures. The regional situation and some international issues of mutual concern were also discussed.

Shaykh Sa'ud pointed out that Eagleburger welcomed the resolutions of the Gulf Cooperation Council summit which concluded in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Among other things, the conference expressed its thanks to U.S. President George Bush and his administration for the vanguard role they played in liberating Kuwait from the treacherous Iraqi occupation. Shaykh Sa'ud expressed Kuwait's appreciation of the very effective diplomatic role played by Eagleburger personally in his capacity as assistant secretary of state during the Desert Shield and Desert Storm operations for the liberation of Kuwait.

### Three U.S. Airmen Injured in Mine Explosion

*LD2512090592 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0711 GMT 25 Dec 92*

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 25 Dec (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' said today that three U.S. airmen were injured yesterday in an explosion caused by a mine left behind by the Iraqi enemy at the Burqan oilfield. The paper explained in an unattributed report that the three airmen were walking about at the site mentioned when one of them unearthed a wire which he began to pull thus causing the mine to go off. He and those with him were consequently injured. The paper said that the airmen were taken to the hospital for the necessary medical treatment. [passage omitted]

### Paper Urges Iran To Return Disputed Gulf Islands

*LD2812113792 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0807 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Kuwait, 28 Dec (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti newspaper today urges Iran to return the Arab islands it is occupying in the Gulf to their rightful owners. It says that Iran's presence on the occupied United Arab Emirates [UAE] islands is sufficient cause for tension in ties between Iran and the Gulf states and could sink relations to the absolute bottom.

In an editorial, "AL-SIYASAH" says that Iran's presence on the islands of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra "will increase her isolation and tarnish her image." Recalling Iran's experiences in Lebanon, Algeria, Egypt, and the Sudan, it adds that "Iran's experience in defying the world has itself borne a great return of failure."

The editorial points out that it has become incumbent on Iran to now realize that the outcome of its attempts to dominate parts of the Third World have come to nothing and that, in view of this fact, it should realize that its continued presence on the UAE islands is a repeat of its other failed experiments.

The paper says that the issue is not so much about the need for rivers of blood, as Mr. Rafsanjani has threatened, as it is about the need to put the facts together and to look at them clearly. The paper ends the article by saying: "We hope Iran will learn the lesson, albeit belatedly, rather than try to be too clever."

### Court Orders Two Constituencies To Repeat Election

*LD2912113092 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1032 GMT 29 Dec 92*

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 29 Dec (KUNA)—The Constitutional Court ruled today that the elections for the membership of the National Assembly in the 14th and 16th constituencies must be repeated. This followed the Court's acceptance of the form and content of electoral appeals submitted by two citizens in the aforementioned constituencies, something which is unprecedented in the National Assembly's history. [passage omitted]

### Oil Company Official Says Millions Embezzled

*LD2912111192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0947 GMT 29 Dec 92*

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Dec (KUNA)—'Abdallah al-Rumi, the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Oil Tankers Company, gave a press interview published here concerning the truth of reports about the existence of embezzlement in the Company. He affirmed that it has been established that Liberian paper companies were used as a medium in the embezzlement operations. In his interview, published in the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS, al-Rumi said it has also been established that there were

secret accounts in the name of these paper companies in a Swiss bank, and these secret accounts were used for the transfer of funds.

Regarding the way these embezzlements were conducted and the sums involved, al-Rumi said that according to information thus far unearthed, the operations were not confined to hire and lease contracts alone but extended to other operations connected with marine transport and other matters. He pointed out that the sums involved reach tens of millions of Kuwaiti Dinars.

Al-Rumi said he is confident that those involved in the embezzlement operation succeeded in deceiving the control authorities which supervise the Company's activities, namely the Accounts Department, the External Auditing Bureau, and the Internal Auditing Bureau of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

Al-Rumi stressed that it is important that the state should attach particular attention to the safety of the oil sector and should place honest qualified people in positions of leadership in this sector so as to prevent people without conscience from sneaking into it. He pointed out that it is important to apply the principle of reward and punishment.

In conclusion, al-Rumi said he prefers not to rush to refer the matter to the courts at present because by virtue of their relationship with the owners of commercial ships and companies, the oil tanker companies would be better placed to collect information than any judicial body that could be set up at present.

## Qatar

### Palestinian Officials Arrive on Official Visit

#### Meet With Amir

*JN2612140292 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Dec 92*

[Text] Doha, 26 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, this morning received Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee and PLO representative in Tunis.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and minister of defense, and Yasin al-Sharif, Palestine's ambassador in Doha, also attended the meeting.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that discussions during the meeting dealt with developments in the Middle East peace process in light of arbitrary measures by Israeli authorities in the occupied Arab territories and the acts of collective punishment and deportation of hundreds of Palestinians from their homes and lands which contradict peace trends.

Discussions also dealt with the current Arab situation and means to achieve strong and effective Arab solidarity in this critical stage facing the nation.

#### Confer With Interior Minister

*JN2812113792 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0955 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Doha, 28 Dec (WAKH)—Qatari Interior Minister Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani met here this morning with Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee and PLO representative in Tunis.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the two sides reviewed the developments in the Palestine question, the Middle East peace process, Israel's repressive measures against Palestinians, and the expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland.

Yasin al-Sharif, Palestinian ambassador to the State of Qatar, attended the meeting.

#### Received by Foreign Minister

*JN2912071092 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Brothers Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee, and Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee, have met with Qatari Foreign Minister brother Hamad Bin-Jasim bin-Jabhur. During the meeting, they reviewed the latest developments of the Palestine question and the progress of the peace process, which continues to come up against intransigent stands by Israel in order to obstruct it. They also reviewed the Israeli occupation authorities' arbitrary measures against our Palestinian people and policy of mass deportation, which threatens the peace process and shows disregard for the UN Security Council resolution providing for the return of deportees to their homes and homeland.

The Palestinian delegation also reviewed with the Qatari foreign minister the progress of joint Arab action and the need to bolster and activate Arab solidarity, especially under the current circumstances, in order to deal with the challenges facing the Arab nation.

The question of holding an Arab foreign ministers meeting was raised during the meeting. The minister, instructed by his highness the amir of qatar, affirmed Qatar's firm stand in support of the Palestinian intifadah and struggle under the PLO and all the measures that the PLO deems successful and useful in all areas, especially with regard to bolstering and activating joint Arab action through the holding of an Arab foreign ministers meeting.

The meeting was attended by [words redistinct] the Palestinian ambassador to Qatar.

## Oman

### Yemeni Official Arrives To Ratify Border Pact

*JN2612142592 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Dec 92*

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, foreign minister of the unitefy Republic of Yemen, arrived in the country at noon today on a three-day visit to the Sultanate.

In a statement to the OMANI NEWS AGENCY, his excellency said that his visit to the Sultanate is being held at the invitation of His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs. He said that he will deliver a message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id from his brother His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen.

Dr. al-Iryani said his visit demonstrates the high level of Omani-Yemeni relations after the signing of last October's border agreement. He pointed out that during his visit, ratification documents for the border agreement will be exchanged as a prelude to entrusting them to the United Nations. His excellency added that through this step, the agreement becomes effective and will open broad horizons for bilateral cooperation and facilitate contacts and links between the two fraternal peoples.

The Yemeni minister said that he will discuss ways of developing and fostering bilateral relations, and the latest Arab and international developments.

Upon arrival, Dr. al-Iryani was received by Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, the Yemeni ambassador to the Sultanate, and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

### Signs Document

*JN2712172292 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Dec 92*

[Excerpt] The instruments of ratification of the international border agreement between the sultanate and the Republic of Yemen were signed at the Foreign Ministry this morning.

It was signed on behalf of the Omani Government by His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and for the Yemeni Government by His Excellency Dr. 'Abd- al-Karim al-Iryani, foreign minister.

The ceremony was attended by a number of ministers, under secretaries, ambassadors, heads of Foreign Ministry's departments, and the ambassadors of Arab and foreign countries to the sultanate. [passage omitted]

### Delivers Message to Sultan

*JN2712134792 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Dec 92*

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received at his office at al-Barakah Palace today His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, foreign minister of the unitefy Republic of Yemen. He delivered a message to his majesty the sultan from his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dealing with bilateral relations and means of bolstering them in various fields in the interest of the peoples in both countries.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Yemeni ambassador to the sultanate.

### News Conference Held

*JN2812171292 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Carried within "Correspondents' Dispatches" feature]

[Excerpt] His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, held a joint news conference with His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, foreign minister of the Republic of Yemen, who today concluded a visit to the sultanate during which the instruments of ratification of the bilateral border agreement were singed.

At the beginning of the news conference, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah made a speech in which he said the Yemeni minister's visit to the sultanate has provided the chance for the signing of the instruments of ratification of the bilateral border agreement, concluded in Sanaa last October. He added that the visit has also provided a chance to hold official talks on developing and streamlining bilateral relations.

His excellency further said that a comprehensive understanding prevailed in these talks, and that contacts will continue on all levels. He also said that there is a desire to form a high- ministerial committee, and to join all previous agreements and committees within the framework of this committee.

It was agreed to form a joint working team between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries to coordinate and consult on political issues of mutual concern.

Al-Iryani delivered a speech in which he expressed his gratitude and that of his delegation for the warm reception they received in the sultanate.

His excellency added that what he heard from his majesty the sultan made him believe firmly that this chance [for a conclusion of the border agreement] is a new breakthrough and a new history, not only in Yemeni-Omani relations, but in inter-Arab relations. [passage omitted]

## Yemen

### YSP Official Injured in Assassination Attempt

*JN2312214492 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Dec 92*

[Text] A responsible source at the Interior and Security Ministry has told the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', that

Brother 'Ali Salih (Thabah), member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and first secretary of the YSP organization in Abyan Governorate, was the target of an assassination attempt at 0900 today as he was on his way to work in Zinjibar city. Four perpetrators opened fire on him, injuring him and his bodyguard. Both men were rushed to the public hospital in Abyan.

The source added that security organs in the governorate have arrested two of the culprits, while the other two managed to escape. The source said that security organs in the governorate are currently pursuing them. The source urged brother citizens to cooperate with security authorities and quickly provide them with any information concerning the two suspects.

## U.S. Planes Using Aden Airport for Somalia Aid

*NC2512155392 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Dec 92*

[Text] The Republic of Yemen has welcomed the presence of U.S. forces on its territory, saying this is part of the facilities provided to the international forces as they perform their humanitarian mission in Somalia.

Informed sources said U.S. aircraft have used Aden Airport, and that some U.S. soldiers are stationed in Aden Port in southern Yemen. The sources added that a U.S. mission currently is studying the conditions of Aden Port and airport and the possibility of developing them to receive huge U.S. warships and military transport planes. It is known that the Yemeni Government, which supported tyrant Saddam Husayn in his invasion of Kuwait, opposed the presence of foreign forces in the region to liberate Kuwait.

## Ratification of Border Agreement With Oman Viewed

*JN2712205992 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Dec 92*

[Text] Instruments of ratification of the international border agreement signed by the Republic of Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman in Sanaa on 1 October 1992 were exchanged at the Omani Foreign Ministry in Muscat today.

The documents were signed by brothers Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, and Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs. At the ceremony held to mark the occasion, friendly speeches were exchanged. Brother Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah said the momentous achievement must be credited to the wise leaderships in the two brotherly countries. By signing the agreement, he said, the two countries thus set an example for others to follow in sorting out similar differences. Oman, he added, looks forward to close wide-ranging cooperation with the Republic of Yemen to advance Arab and Islamic interests. The two countries would also like to see practical steps to promote their cooperation.

Brother al-Iryani's speech noted the long-standing ties between the two brotherly peoples and countries, and called the signing of the border agreement a historic achievement. The agreement should help further improve relations in all areas. Al-Iryani said that the signing of the agreement will render the borders more like open doors than walls separating the two countries. He concluded by saying that for the Republic of Yemen such an attitude toward its brothers and neighbors is a matter of principle.

The signing ceremonies were witnessed by members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps and top Omani Foreign Ministry officials.

Meanwhile, a round of Yemeni-Omani talks was held at the Omani Foreign Ministry building this morning under 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and Yusuf Bin-'Alawi. The two sides reviewed bilateral cooperation, and agreement was reached on devising a formula for political cooperation between the two countries' foreign ministries. The two sides also agreed to vitalize bilateral agreements already in place. They decided to expand the scope of cooperation so as to cement ties between the two brotherly peoples. They also discussed Arab developments—particularly in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf—and other regional and international issues.

## More on Reaction to U.S. Downing of Aircraft

### 'Aziz Reacts to Bush, Clinton

*JN2812175292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1737 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Dec (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has asserted that the statements made by George Bush and U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton over the hostile U.S. action that resulted in the downing of an Iraqi aircraft are false.

Commenting on the U.S. statements over the hostile U.S. action which resulted in the downing of an Iraqi aircraft, Tariq 'Aziz told INA: The resolution to ban Iraqi flights south of the 32d parallel was not the resolution of the United Nations and the world community, as stated by Bush and by Bill Clinton. That resolution was a U.S. decision, in which Britain and France participated. It was a unilateral act of a purely political nature and has no relation to the resolutions and declared objectives of the United Nations.

'Aziz added: Everybody knows that this decision was made under the circumstances of the presidential race. At the time, George Bush's administration made false allegations and imposed the ban on Iraqi flights to fabricate a military confrontation with Iraq which Bush believed would improve his deteriorating standing in the election campaign. That's why this fact should be clarified to all those who deal with the issue, particularly the new U.S. Administration.

Tariq 'Aziz ridiculed the comments that Iraq seeks to test the Bush administration in its last days, or wants to test the determination of President-elect Bill Clinton. 'Aziz said that the Iraqi pilots who were flying in the skies of their country were not thinking about Bush or Clinton and that Iraq is not interested in who governs the United States. What interests Iraq is the nature of the U.S. policy toward it.

He asserted that Iraq does not recognize the ban imposed on its flights and considers this ban an encroachment on its sovereignty and natural right to fly in its national airspace. Iraq also considers the downing of the Iraqi jet by the U.S. warplanes a hostile action by the U.S. Government, he said.

Concluding his statement, Tariq 'Aziz urged the Arab states and the world community to denounce this flagrant aggression and to ask the U.S. Administration and the governments of Britain and France to stop the flights of their warplanes in Iraq's airspace.

### Foreign Minister Briefs Envoys

*JN2812214392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2121 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf this morning summoned the heads of Arab diplomatic missions in Baghdad. They were briefed on the incident in which an Iraqi plane was shot down by U.S. aircraft, in an aggressive, premeditated act of aggression. The minister stated that the shooting down of the Iraqi plane by U.S. aircraft is an act of aggression whose international responsibility is fully borne by the United States.

The foreign minister explained to heads of the Arab diplomatic missions the illegality of the U.S. and allied decision to impose the no-fly zone in southern Iraq. He indicated that this decision is an act of aggression and constitutes a flagrant violation of the rules of the international law and the UN Charter. The minister asked the heads of missions to convey what has happened and the explanations he made to their sisterly governments. He expressed the hope that these governments will understand Iraq's fair and clear position and support it at international forums and demand a halt to the Western coalition aircraft's violation of Iraqi airspace.

It is noteworthy that the foreign minister met separately last night with the heads of the diplomatic missions of China, Russia, and India to explain the details of the shooting down of the Iraqi plane by the U.S. aircraft. He considered that a flagrant act of aggression, and asked that this be conveyed to their governments.

### 'Masses' Stage Marches

*JN2812182192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—Popular masses staged massive spontaneous marches in Baghdad streets today to protest criminal act committed by the American-led alliance forces by shooting down an Iraqi plane over the homeland.

The angry masses, which started their marches from schools, universities, residential quarters, and establishments, shouted slogans and raised banners expressing their denunciation of the cowardly action, which constitutes a serious precedent in the international arena.

The masses urged the international and humanitarian organizations throughout the world to condemn that lowly action, which conflicts with all international and humanitarian norms and laws.

The masses stressed that it was time for the voice of right and the world's conscience to condemn the unjust UN resolutions, which were issued against the Iraqi people under U.S. pressure in order to plunder their national wealth.

The masses called on the free people of the world to support the Iraqi people to abort all the chapters of conspiracy being implemented by the United States and Zionism to harm the Iraqi people's security, independence, and dignity.

They also urged the humanitarian organizations to condemn this criminal act with all available ways as it conflicts with the human values and international norms.

The masses also affirmed their stand behind President Saddam Husayn's historic leadership in confronting the aggression and working to foil it.

The masses reiterated their pledge to the president to remain soldiers loyal to the principles until victory and to foil all the enemies' designs.

### Plane Incident Condemned

*JN2812130992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Excerpts] World Capitals, 28 Dec (INA)—The news of the evil aggression carried out by the aircraft of the aggressive alliance against one of our aircraft while it was on a routine patrol over our national soil yesterday morning, which resulted in the shooting down of our aircraft, has been highlighted by various Arab and foreign media. [passage omitted]

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference [APFC], has condemned the new anti-Iraq aggression represented by the downing of an Iraqi plane by the treacherous allied troops.

Hammudi, who is currently visiting Tunisia to attend the first national congress of the Tunisian Progressive Socialist Assembly, affirmed that this aggression embodies the defeat inflicted on the alliance member states led by the defeated war criminal U.S. President George Bush during their war against the great Iraqi people.

The APFC secretary general urged the Arab parties, forces, and mass organizations to condemn this criminal act, which underlines Iraqi sovereignty and interferes in its domestic affairs in violation of all international norms and conventions.

Hammudi also reiterated the support of the Arab popular forces for the Iraqi people under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to thwart all the conspiracies and plots hatched by the U.S.-led Western powers and their allies to undermine their sovereignty as well as the sovereignty and dignity of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

### Saddam Addresses Council of Ministers Meeting

*JN2812205792 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Address by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to a Council of Ministers session in Baghdad on 28 Dec—read by announcer]

[Text] Leader Saddam Husayn, president of the republic, has chaired a Council of Ministers session.

During the meeting, his excellency made important comments and gave instructions to improve the administrative and productive efficiency of senior officials as part of his excellency's effort to instill such values for the sake of our people's well-being and Iraq's progress.

His excellency said:

I have noticed that the astounding results achieved at certain ministries or certain departments within the ministries were not only due to the powers granted, but were also due to the leadership qualities of the minister, the under secretary, or the director general, and their abilities to have a vision and exert an influence. There is a difference between vision and influence. Vision alone is an idealistic thing; it is the best thing one aspires for. But leadership is not vision alone, but a vision that is translated into an action that manages resources and encourages the employees to achieve the goal at the required time, cost, and quality.

For the administrative and productive leadership to be capable in terms of vision and influence, it needs to be objective and unbiased. It must also be able to understand what can be achieved and set clear objectives and the means to achieve them.

We must not forget that it is an attribute of the Iraqi individual to accept challenges and to work seriously and with perseverance. But the Iraqi individual also wants to feel that his work is seen by Saddam Husayn or this or that minister. If that happens, then that individual can offer more because the moral incentive is needed as much as the material incentive.

We want all our ministers to be influential and to rise to the level of the leaders of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO], which stands out as a national level. Furthermore, there are certain activities within the MIO which stand out from other activities.

At the beginning of its work when the MIO was small, it had limited prerogatives. But when it expanded and its management proved that it is effective and capable, it was granted broader prerogatives. However, could such prerogatives have been granted to all the state leaders? Prerogatives should be reasonable and commensurate with the essence of the action and the offering that advances the country and does not burden it. But if prerogatives are broader than the offering or the priorities, then this will certainly be an inappropriate delegation of power and will most probably lead to waste.

I met yesterday with the under secretaries of the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction and reminded them of the hesitation one of the ministry's establishments had shown when it was time to compete with an establishment belonging to the MIO for rebuilding the headquarters of the Ba'th Party's National and Regional Command(s). I told them at the time: Why do you not compete with the MIO establishment since you and they are all Iraqis, and you have more experience in the field of building and construction than the MIO and we provide you with the same facilities that we give to the other party? That's how they agreed to compete and were competitors that had to be reckoned with.

The other factor that should be taken into consideration is the result of effective actions. You should be equitable and accurate because justice and accuracy encourages those who deserve to be honored to make further efforts.

I have also noticed that the productive ministries when tasked with a certain project, mobilize many resources at the expense of other fields or projects. This is not correct. What is required [words indistinct]. I also noticed that some ministries had sought or seek the help of the MIO in some of the construction projects or in some specific objectives.

This is the exception and not the rule. What is required from now on is to transfer the spirit of the military industrialization and its powers to ministries and their departments to work in the same spirit. Only then, can the success and failure of the concerned official be assessed. There is another important factor of which you should take notice, namely, the act of following up, because our experience needs it all the time. I noticed, for example, that certain MIO activities have dropped off as a result of not following up in time.

A continuous, careful follow-up will reveal the points of weakness and defects. One of the reasons for defects may be the weakness of the cadres. The MIO succeeded because it replaced people and leaders when the situation required. During the al-Qadisiyah [battles], we used to replace commanders wherever we felt that their capabilities did not match the nature of the battle. We noticed that some ministries and administrative leaders know the points of weakness and faults and their reasons but do not replace the persons responsible for them unless these leaders directly face the problem. This is absolutely wrong.

The people want you to secure strength, decent livings, rights, and justice for them, and this does not come from a vacuum. O David! We did indeed make thee a vicegerent on earth: So judge thou between men in truth: Nor follow thou the lusts, for they will mislead thee from the Path of God: For those who wander, stray from the Path of God, is a Penalty Grievous, for that they forget the Day of Account. [Koranic verse]

[Words indistinct] If he does not grasp this opportunity, will we just say that he did not grasp this opportunity, and that's all? No. In this case, you must look for another one. Each one of you should be willing to listen to the remarks by others because those who do not listen to others will not develop.

I make it a point to have you always ascertain, that within the sphere of higher capability, there is a state of higher interaction. This is the sum of the starting line and the final result which has been reached. You must not forget the spirit of national challenge that the Mother of Battles has brought about.

In today's meetings, the conferees adopted the recommendations made at the end of the study submitted by the ministerial committee under Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president of the republic and supervisor of the oil and industry sector. The committee had been entrusted to study the structure of bank interests and to increase them to encourage savings and deposits. The Central Bank Governor will issue a statement on this issue. The new interest rates will be implemented on 1 January 1993.

It was also decided to form a ministerial committee under Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn to study the powers that will be given to the projects and the investment ventures in addition to the services projects and the other activities.

## Regime Executes More Nuclear Scientists

*NC2712161092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Dec 92*

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has affirmed that tyrant Saddam Husayn's regime recently perpetrated the crime of assassinating Iraqi atomic scientists.

In a statement released today, SAIRI said the order to execute the scientists was issued after they protested the assassination of Iraqi atomic engineer Mu'ayyad al-Janabi by the tyrant Saddam's intelligence services in Amman.

According to informed sources, the execution of the Iraqi atomic scientists was carried out because tyrant Saddam Husayn feared they would flee abroad and reveal the ostracized regime's secret armament program and the foreign companies which contributed to the program.

## World Urged To Thwart Iran's Nuclear Program

*JN2712123592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 27 Dec 92*

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Dec (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper has warned against Iran's determination to build its nuclear program, adding that the world has a responsibility to quickly and immediately thwart Iran's efforts to produce a nuclear bomb.

In an article published today, the newspaper BABIL affirms that Iranian nuclear weapons, which are first and foremost aimed at threatening the Arab nation and disturbing stability and security in the Gulf, constitute a threat to world peace.

The paper adds: It has become certain that Iran is determined to build its nuclear arms program and to make progress in this program. It has allocated $800 million for this purpose in a single year.

BABIL goes on to say: This Iranian endeavor is manifesting itself through covert behind-the-scenes Iranian efforts to acquire nuclear devices and equipment. Besides, Iran is encouraging atomic sciences experts from CIS members to come to Iran in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

BABIL asserts that Iran's denial of the existence of a nuclear armament program of its own does not alter the fact, which is supported by proof, and documents, that Iran is interested in this field and is pursuing a program to become a regional nuclear power.

Concluding its article, the paper says that the danger inherent in Iran becoming a regional nuclear power is in disseminating the nuclear threat to frighten the neighboring Arab states. The paper adds that Iran wants to use nuclear weapons as a deterrence, which would give it freedom of action and movement of its conventional arms arsenal in the Arab region.

### Army To Return 10 'Mistakenly Deported' Men

*TA2912052592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Dec 92*

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is debating how to bring back 10 of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists who were mistakenly deported to Lebanon. A probe revealed that the 10 had never been on the list of deportees, and also that additional deportees may have been on the list by mistake.

Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe was told that several mistakes were made because of time constraints. The IDF spokesman pointed out, however, that there is information against some of the 10 indicating that they had been involved in hostile activities, and if brought back, they will be put on trial.

### Compromise on Red Cross Access Considered

*TA2912054892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Dec 92*

[Excerpts] Israel is considering an affirmative reply to the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] request to allow its delegation to access the deportees' encampment through the security zone. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz has the details:

Israel, in fact, is abandoning its stand of total rejection, but before compromise proposals are broached, Jerusalem is waiting to see what James Jonah will achieve in his talks in Lebanon. Israel's only reservation is that the compromise cannot involve matters of principle, namely proposals implying a linkage between Israel and the deportees. There is awareness in Israel, however, that Lebanon is likewise afraid of being identified with the deportees' fate.

The first indication of a change in Israel's stand was received yesterday when Jerusalem rejected a French appeal to allow two doctors to reach the deportees via the security zone. The refusal was rationalized by the announcement that this issue can be discussed only with international bodies, such as the ICRC and the United Nations, and not with individual countries.

And indeed, the most acceptable idea is to allow an ICRC delegation—which will include doctors, nurses, and field officers—to reach the deportees. Contacts to this effect are being held between Jerusalem and the ICRC. The idea is given thought and not rejected outright. [passage omitted]

Today UN envoy Jonah is leaving for Lebanon, where he will hear that country's suggestions. Tomorrow he will return to Jerusalem to meet again with Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres. After that, he will depart for Addis Ababa to report to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali.

### Offer to Medical Team

*NC2912080992 Paris AFP in English 0727 GMT 29 Dec 92*

[Text] Jerusalem, Dec 29 (AFP)—Israel has offered to let a Red Cross medical team visit the 415 Palestinian deportees camped in a snow-bound no man's land in south Lebanon, the defence ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

The move coincides with mediation by a U.N. envoy and marks "an apparent change of government policy", state-run radio reported nearly two weeks after Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin expelled the suspected Islamic fundamentalists.

Israel had notified the International Committee of the Red Cross of the proposal, spokesman Oded Ben Ami told AFP. "We are prepared to give the green light to this one-off operation provided the Lebanese government agrees to allow food and medical convoys through regularly afterwards," he said.

U.N. under secretary-general James Jonah was to travel to Lebanon on Tuesday, the radio reported.

Jonah is due to return to Israel on Wednesday.

### Peres Comments on Lebanese Decision on Deportees

*TA2912122492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 29 Dec 92*

[Text] In response to Lebanon's rejection of the UN envoy's compromise proposal, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that Lebanon would like to return the deportees to Israel—politically, if not physically—and Israel will not countenance that. The foreign minister's remarks at a news conference in Haifa were reported by correspondent Shula Schmerling:

[Begin recording] [Schmerling] The foreign minister refused to address directly the Lebanese Government's negative stand in the affair of aid to deportees, of which he was informed in the course of the news conference. He said: I will not negotiate with Lebanon through the media. Israel's position, however, is clear: Only if the Lebanese Government takes action alleviating the deportees' suffering and abstains from making political gains from them will Israel respond with a humanitarian gesture.

[Peres] Israel has announced that if Lebanon responds to some extent, so will we, and if it does not, we will consider our position. I am not going to tell Lebanon: Never mind your not helping, we will do it. This would be inconceivable.

[Schmerling] Any attempt to return the deportees to Israel—even politically and not physically—will be unacceptable to Israel.

The foreign minister went on to confirm France's attempt to intervene in the deportees affair.

[Peres] With regard to the French, they did approach us, and we told them that right now Jonah is in the area, and we would prefer to conduct our negotiations with a UN representative, rather than any single UN member. [end recording]

### Arab MK's Disappointed With Rabin's Positions

*TA2712155792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Dec 92*

[Text] Arab Knesset members [MK's] met Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today and demanded that Israel resolve the issue of the deportees; otherwise, the MK's from HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and the Arab Democratic Party [ADP] threatened to submit motions of no confidence in the government. Our correspondent Asaf Ya'ari has more details.

[Begin recording] [Ya'ari] After a long meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the MK's from the Arab HADASH and ADP factions, expressed disappointment with the prime minister's statements. Here is MK 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah.

[Darawshah] We held an interesting and matter of fact discussion. We listened to the prime minister and also expressed our own positions, especially about the deportations. Our demand consists of returning the deportees and immediately permitting the International Red Cross To transfer food, drugs, and warm clothing to them. In addition, we demanded the launching of direct negotiations with the PLO to bring about a real political breakthrough and promote the peace process. The prime minister presented his own position and that of the cabinet, which we did not accept. We continue to disagree on some of the political issues.

[Ya'ari] The MK's and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, who was present during part of the meeting, expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the debate over budget allocations for the Arab local councils. This morning, while the cabinet session was in progress, a group of Israeli Arabs demonstrated opposite the prime minister's office.

### Arabs Disperse After Trying To Reach Deportees

*TA2812124092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Several dozen Arab public figures who tried to reach the deportees' encampment have dispersed in Rosh Haniqra after the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] prohibited them from crossing into Lebanon.

At a news conference held earlier at a border checkpoint, they criticized the United Nations for not forcing Israel to comply with the Security Council resolution concerning the deportees. The group decided to reconvene tonight or tomorrow to plan their next steps.

Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports that before the delegation members arrived in Rosh Haniqra, they tried to hand the food and equipment they had brought for the deportees to the UN Command in Naharriyya. After the UN Command refused to accept the supplies, they proceeded to the checkpoint.

### Rabin Hails Arab Decision on Talks

*TA2512062092 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Dec 92 pp 1, 2*

[Text] "I take a positive view of the Arab foreign ministers' decision not to suspend the peace talks, if that indeed was their decision." These remarks were made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to YEDI'OT AHARONOT last night.

The prime minister added: "I will be glad to receive the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks in the prime minister's bureau in Jerusalem—and we will have plenty to discuss. I suggested it on the day I presented my cabinet, I reiterated the invitation several times through various interlocutors, and I am publicly renewing it again today, because we need to make another move on the path to peace. The Palestinians will have no cause to regret such a meeting. It will be a shame if they again reject the invitation. [no closing quotation mark as published]

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] What will you give them?

[Rabin] Peace talks are not based on charity.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Will you allow the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to transfer supplies to the deportees via the security zone?

[Rabin] The deportees are outside the security zone, on sovereign Lebanese soil and under Lebanese control. The decision whether they are to be left in that encampment or given more decent conditions lies with Lebanon.

As for the ICRC convoy, the suggestion that supplies be transferred to the encampment from Lebanon through the security zone is very odd. It obviously is a Lebanese maneuver designed to link us to and make us again responsible for the deportees. The international media access the camp directly from Beirut. There is no need to extend the distance by passing through the security zone. It is plain that the supply convoy the ICRC wants to send can reach the encampment in the same way the ICRC representative in Beirut, the French ambassador, and of course all the media, did. It is very odd that the media are allowed to access the camp directly, while the ICRC supplies have for some reason to cross through the security zone.

They want to use this development to put the affair to another legal test. They are saying: Let us look for a pretext for another petition to the High Court of Justice on the basis of this. It looks to me like a political maneuver by the Lebanese Government, and I am sorry that the ICRC became a partner in the Lebanese Government's political maneuver, which has absolutely nothing to do with humanitarian aspects, because if they are willing to forward supplies to the removed men, why should they not receive them in the most direct way?

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Had you anticipated the reactions to the deportations?

[Rabin] I knew it was an unusual step.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Who decided on the number of deportees?

[Rabin] The decision on the number was mine. My reasoning was that the blow to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] had to be substantial. It indeed is a heavy blow, but Hamas definitely has not been obliterated. We have harmed Hamas' capability for some time to come, however.

## Rabin Says Rules of Engagement Unchanged

*TA2712175692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Dec 92*

[Text] In a meeting with HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] Arab Knesset members [MK's] and MK 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah from the Arab Democratic Party, Prime Minister Rabin said the rules of engagement for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the territories have not been changed at all.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Rabin explained the high number of fatalities in Gaza in recent days by saying that one of the units stationed there had acted in an inappropriate way, following which he ordered the unit to be removed from the area.

Following the meeting, the Arab MKs said Rabin's stance on the issue of deportations has remained unchanged, and they will be therefore unable to continue supporting the government. HADASH will also consider submitting a motion of no confidence in the government.

## Majority of MK's Against Talks With PLO

*TA2812134692 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Dec 92 pp 1, 15*

[Poll report; all figures as published]

[Text] A majority of Knesset members [MK's] are opposed to launching direct talks with the PLO.

A survey conducted by YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondents among MK's indicates that out of 116 MK's, who were asked "whether they supported direct negotiations with the PLO?," only 46 said yes, while 67 issued a negative response. Two other MK's avoided giving an answer.

The question has become more relevant due to the fact that on 30 December the Knesset plenum will discuss a motion to the agenda presented by MK 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah calling for direct talks with the PLO. The vote on this proposal will be the Knesset's first parliamentary test of the balance of power between those who support a dialogue with the PLO and those who oppose it.

Darawshah himself claimed that he tabled the motion in order to publicly expose what he believes to be the silent Knesset majority which supports direct negotiations with the PLO.

However, a poll conducted by YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondents clearly revealed that a large and absolute majority of MK's reject direct negotiations with the PLO.

Forty-six MK's support negotiations with the PLO: 30 out of 44 Labor MK's: Avraham Burg, Ora Namir, David Liba'i, Nissim Zvili, 'Uzi Bar'am, Rafi Eitel, Ori Or, Avraham Shohat, Shevah Weiss, Haggy Merom, Masha Lubelsky, Eli Ben-Menahem, Nawaf Masalha, Moshe Shahal, Yossi Beilin, Dalya Itzik, Efrayim Sne, Mikha Goldman, Salah Tarif, Avigdor Qahalani, Yossi Katz, Rafi Edri, Ya'aqov Sheffi, Ya'el Dayan, Yoram Lass, Shlomo Bubbut, Eli Goldschmidt, 'Amir Peretz, Shmu'el Avital; 11 out of 12 Meretz MK's; the three HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] MK's; and the two Arab Democratic Party MK's.

The 67 MK's who are opposed to such talks are made up of 14 Labor party MK's: Yitzhaq Rabin, Shim'on Peres, Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, Hayim Ramon, Mikha Harish, Yisra'el Qeysar, Shim'on Shetrit, Ra'anan Kohen, Eli Dayan, Gedalya Gal, Mordekhay Gur, Gid'on Sagi, 'Imanu'el Zisman, and Yossi Vanunu; 31 of the 32 Likud MK's; the eight Tsomet MK's; the six National Religious Party MK's, the four United Torah Jewry MK's; and two SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] MK's.

Two other MK's refused to answer the question. Meretz MK Amnon Rubinstein, who is also a minister, refused to answer, while SHAS MK Moshe Maya said that his reply depended on Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef's ruling. Likud MK Ari'el Sharon and three SHAS MK's did not take part in the poll.

## Delegate Reacts to Syria's Remarks on Peace

*TA2512123792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 25 Dec 92*

[Interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, head of the delegation for talks with Syria, by Shuli Yehimovich, following Rabinovich's meeting with Prime Minister Rabin on 25 December in Jerusalem —recorded]

[Text] [Rabinovich] My reaction to the remarks by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam is positive for several reasons. Primarily, he is a very prominent figure in Syria. He is believed to be holding a less enthusiastic stand in the Syrian echelon regarding the peacemaking process. Second, it was a positive remark by Khaddam on the peace process, although it was not made publicly, but to a group of U.S. senators. This is, however, a remark in the direction we have asked the Syrians to expand upon. Over the past several months, we have been making it clear to Syria that it is not enough for them to hand us papers behind

closed doors. We, Israel's Government and its representatives, want to hear the Syrian echelon speak in a language that both the Israeli and the Syrian public could understand.

[Yehinovich] This remark says a breakthrough in peace could be made particularly at this time. Why now?

[Rabinovich] I believe that this point in time is due to the fact that he was visited by a group of distinguished U.S. Democratic senators who were in Israel before that. They are key people, mainly on the eve of the Democratic administration's assuming its post. Syria sees the peace process in the framework of its establishing new relations with the administration, the nature of which is a cause of some concern to Syria. Syria has a special interest in demonstrating its desire for peace to the incoming administration. This is the explanation for the timing of this statement.

[Yehinovich] A lot has been said here about the effect the deportation of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists could have on the peace process. Does this affair not affect the talks with Syria?

[Rabinovich] A meeting was held in Cairo which the Syrian foreign minister attended. In the meeting they decided to continue the peace process. It is true that tactical obstacles, if we may call them that, should be overcome, but the decision was that the talks should go on. The Palestinians were not too happy about the decision; certainly Hamas was not. Once Syria decides there is enough critical mass on its track, I believe it will not allow other elements to harm what would seem to be the fulfillment of a Syrian interest.

[Yehinovich] Do we have a reason to be optimistic with regard to the negotiations with Syria at this time?

[Rabinovich] I believe that we are not yet through with all the obstacles, and we still have a few weeks before we meet again in Washington for the next round of talks, which will certainly not be held before the end of January or the beginning of February. During that period, those who want to harm the talks will certainly find enough opportunities. Syria, as the other Arab countries who want the meeting to take place, will have to show maturity and flexibility to overcome them.

### Rabinovich Interview

*TA2812173792 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, head of the delegation to the peace talks with Syria, by Rafi Reshef—live in the studio]

[Text] [Reshef] Would you say that the Syrians dictate Lebanon's policy with regard to the deportees?

[Rabinovich] Even if they do not dictate it, they play an important and decisive role in the formulation of Lebanon's policy.

[Reshef] Could you suggest what their motives are and what they are trying to promote?

[Rabinovich] As a rule, Syria conducts a complex policy designed to meet several objectives. In the political meeting in Cairo, Syria subscribed to a resolution to continue to participate in the peace talks. As for what is happening in the field in Lebanon, Syria stands behind the Lebanese attitude and is encumbering Israel's current position. You may ask how does one square with the other, and the answer is that the objectives are different. Syria wants to continue the talks because it believes, just like we do, that a Syrian-Israeli agreement is attainable and not necessarily in the distant future.

[Reshef] I would like to quote to you what Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam told U.S. senators visiting Damascus, which I read last weekend in HA'ARETZ, that Israel and Syria have reached the point where comprehensive peace could be attained with mutual security guarantees. Is Khaddam up to date on what is happening in Washington?

[Rabinovich] He is, and as I said, our assessments are not that different. If you ask me how this squares with the harassment of Israel regarding the deportees....

[Reshef, interrupting] I am not. Forget about it and let us deal with this issue. Are you actually saying that you share the view of the Syrian vice president?

[Rabinovich] I do in this case.

[Reshef] Does that mean that we are very close to an agreement with Syria?

[Rabinovich] I do not know whether we are very close, but we are close; it is attainable. We could attain a joint declaration of principles in the spring. As far as we are concerned, such a declaration—which would have to be published simultaneously by the two delegations—would not just give the Israeli-Syrian negotiations but all the negotiations a major boost and would raise them to a new level.

[Reshef] Did you say in the spring?

[Rabinovich] In the spring.

[Reshef] Does that mean this coming April?

[Rabinovich] Maybe. I would not like to specify dates.

[Reshef] I am only asking what you mean by spring.

[Rabinovich] It could definitely be this coming April.

[Reshef] What impedes the signing or the final formulation of a joint declaration?

[Rabinovich] Two things on which there is still a gap in our positions.

[Reshef] On what issues?

[Rabinovich] The first is the perception of peace, on which we want to hear a clear-cut statement, and the Syrian demand that Israel should accept the principle of a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, a position we do not accept. The second is the fact that in the last few months there has been a vacuum in Washington, initially due to the uncertainty about the outcome of the U.S. elections and later due to the defeat of the incumbent administration and the fact that the new administration....

[Reshef, interrupting] Do you still think that such an agreement could be attained without U.S. involvement?

[Rabinovich] It is possible but very difficult.

[Reshef] In other words, you think that at this critical point the incoming administration will have to get involved in one way or another?

[Rabinovich] I think so. That is, objectively speaking, we think an accord could be attained without the Americans, but in reality I think that will be very difficult.

[Reshef] Prof. Rabinovich, can you confirm that talks between Israel and Syria are being held in parallel at various levels, in addition to those being held in Washington?

[Rabinovich] I can confirm that to the best of my knowledge there are no talks in other channels.

[Reshef] This is the only channel?

[Rabinovich] Yes.

[Reshef] Unless things are being concealed from you?

[Rabinovich] I do not think anything is being concealed. Therefore, I do not think there is such a thing.

[Reshef] In conclusion, what you are saying as we approach the end of 1992 is that if the breakthrough we are talking about does not occur in the first half of 1993 we will have a problem.

[Rabinovich] We will not be the only ones. I think our Arab partners, the Middle East, and the international arena will also have a problem.

[Reshef] Do you think that Bill Clinton will be neither a catalyst nor an obstacle compared with the outgoing administration?

[Rabinovich] I think that a new administration cannot be indifferent to international developments. This is an important development in an important region, and represents a chance for the administration to show success early on. I find it hard to believe that an administration will choose not to seize such an opportunity.

[Reshef] Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, thank you very much.

[Rabinovich] Thank you.

## Paper Urges Full Withdrawal From Golan Heights

*TA2712162892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Dec 92 p B1*

[Editorial: "Taking Advantage of Syrian Willingness"]

[Text] During the eighth round of talks in the bilateral committee with Syria, Israel revealed that it was ready to effect a withdrawal "in the Golan Heights," on the condition that Syria is prepared to forge such peace with Israel that the relationship between the two countries will return to a "normal" condition. Syrian delegates spoke of full peace in return for a withdrawal "from the Golan Heights," thereby rejecting the notion of a territorial compromise. In addition, they stressed that peace with Israel is contingent on similar agreements between Israel and all the other participants in the Madrid process: Jordan, the Palestinians, and Lebanon.

Asked by European representatives about the chances of the next round, chief Israeli delegate, Professor Itamar Rabinovich replied that Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, had "admitted that there was nothing in his pockets beyond what has been already raised in the talks to date."

Neither al-'Allaf's sincerity nor the accuracy of Rabinovich's reporting are in doubt. Yet it now transpires that the Syrian Administration's pockets do seem to contain more than could have been deduced from the remarks of the Syrian representative to the bilateral talks. While the Syrian vice president's observation to three U.S. Democratic senators cannot be interpreted to mean that Syria is waiving its demand for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, yet in Syria's view, the negotiations' progress is no longer contingent on agreements with the other Arab parties.

It is inconceivable that 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam would have made these remarks had he not been utterly certain that he was expressing President Hafiz al-Asad's political line. The Syrian ruler is apparently willing to depart from his historic position against a separate peace with Israel. Khaddam's remarks vindicated the view of Israeli observers who have for some time asserted that above all else, Syria is interested in retrieving the Golan Heights, and less so—if at all—in satisfying the demands of Jordan, the PLO, and the Palestinians.

This is a far-reaching step, and although both 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' are still unwilling to specify the constituents of peace, and although Muwaffaq al-'Allaf told the Europeans that "normalization cannot be enforced," the Syrians' forgoing the linkage between an agreement with Israel and agreements with the other Arab elements is of such import that Israel can no longer adhere to the plan of a merely partial withdrawal. If Israel does not want to miss the chance of an agreement with Syria, it will have to accept the fact that the entire Golan Heights would return to Syrian sovereignty.

The readiness to do that will leave two unresolved problems: the question of how to ensure Israel's security after the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] deserts the Golan Heights; and the future of the Jewish settlements there. Khaddam admitted that like Syria, Israel too has legitimate security concerns, but added that the solution of these should be sought in the framework of negotiations. Israel will be able to point to the Egyptian precedent as an example of how the security problem can be resolved: Instead of the Syrian Army, a multinational force will be stationed in the Golan Heights, as was the case in the Sinai peninsula. The Syrians will most probably use the Egyptian precedent to support their demand that the settlements be removed. The Rabin government will have to try to persuade the Syrians that the "full withdrawal" blueprint does not necessarily require full imitation of the treaty with Egypt.

Thus, although even full IDF withdrawal from the Golan Heights does not guarantee a satisfactory solution of the settlements problem, Israel must not miss the opportunity to reach an understanding with Syria through negotiations, however tedious. If al-Asad is prepared to sign a separate peace agreement with us, it is worth Israel's while to renounce the attitude which gave birth to the 1981 Golan Law. The Golan Heights are not an inseparable part of the State of Israel, and the government will probably do well by risking a disagreement with opposition parties. Peace with Syria is worth the price.

### Premier: UN Envoy's Visit on Deportees 'Futile'

*NC2912111192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 Dec 92*

[Excerpts] The meeting between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and James Jonah, UN envoy in charge of the deportees issue, concluded at the presidential headquarters a short while ago. Jonah left for the Chamber of Deputies without making any statement. He is scheduled to meet with Speaker Nabih Barri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and acting Foreign Minister Marwan Hamadah.

President al-Hirawi affirmed to Jonah that Israel alone is responsible for the consequences of the decision to expel the Palestinians and that Lebanon does not bear any responsibility in this regard. He underlined the Lebanese cabinet decision not to hesitate to go back to the Security Council to implement Resolution 799. He said that Lebanon refuses to introduce any assistance via its territories. Thus, the UN envoy will not be permitted to visit the deportees via the Lebanese territories. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri was asked today if Lebanon would agree to Israel's proposal advanced to UN envoy James Jonah, who arrived in Beirut today to receive Lebanon's reply to the proposal. Al-Hariri said: Jonah is wasting his time with us; it is a futile trip, and our position is firm. Al-Hariri added: The Lebanese Government has yet to receive the Israeli proposal officially, but it seems that Jonah is here, in Beirut, to advance it. He added: They are wasting their time.

Al-Hariri added: It is natural for Israel to propose this, because it wants to say that this is a no-man's-land, but these people are on a land occupied by Israel and it must provide them with food and medical supplies. The prime minister added: I will not permit James Jonah to enter the camp.

### Cabinet Meeting Views Army Deployment, Deportees

*NC2812205592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has affirmed that the objective behind the deployment of the Army and internal security forces is to apply the law to everyone. The security operation carried out last week will be implemented wherever the need arises without any prior warning. The president was talking at the cabinet meeting tonight.

The cabinet affirmed that the suffering of the Palestinian deportees results from the deportation decision. The cabinet also affirmed the refusal of the Lebanese Government to assume any responsibility in this regard.

The cabinet warned that if Israel continues its belligerence, the Lebanese Government will be forced to look to the Security Council to issue a resolution compelling Israel to implement its earlier resolution on returning the deportees.

The cabinet affirmed that deploying legitimate forces in the southern suburb of Beirut is preparation for ensuring it after they left it to deploy in the south.

### Minister Rejects Proposal To Send Food to Deportees

*NC2812182492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Marwan Hamadah today rejected a written proposal forwarded by Bernard Pfefferle, chief delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in Lebanon, to send food aid to the Palestinian deportees.

Hamadah emphasized that the deportees are taking place from the south and relief coming from the north is not acceptable. He asserted that the solution to the deportees issue is the one endorsed by the cordon states at their recent meeting, namely, Israel's implementation of Security Council Resolution 799.

### Deportee Spokesman on Food Shortage, UN Envoy

*NC2812165092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Spokesman for the deportees Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi has admitted that certain villagers have smuggled some foodstuffs but the quantity was not enough to assuage hunger. He said today is another day of fasting because of the food shortage, adding: We are waiting for the envoy of the UN secretary general, Jonah, to hand him a message to Boros-Ghali. He said he hoped Jonah would personally visit the camp to see the deportees' conditions and convey the image to international public opinion.

### Fadlallah Urges Arabs To Withdraw From Talks

*NC2512181992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Dec 92*

[Text] [Hizballah spiritual leader] Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has called on the Arab states to withdraw from the talks with Israel, even if temporarily, to create a psychological shock. If this is not done, Israel will deport more people, more camps will be formed, and more Palestinians will be settled in Lebanon.

Fadlallah said the nature of Lebanon's political, economic, and security reality dictates that we cooperate to build this country, even if we disagree on religious and political matters. He stressed that no party can subdue another party, adding that the victors in the wars of sedition have become losers because sedition has made everyone a loser.

### Islamic Jihad Fires Katyushas at Israeli Town

*NC2512092992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Dec 92*

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement—Ilyas al-Maqdis has claimed responsibility for firing a number of Katyusha

rockets at Misgav 'Am settlement in north occupied Palestinian territories at 1930 yesterday. A statement released this morning said that the operation was in retaliation for deporting Palestinians.

### Explosive Charge Detonated; Israeli Shelling Follows

*NC2512180292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Dec 92*

[Text] Journalists in the central sector [of southern Lebanon] report that an explosive charge was detonated under a military vehicle on the Talhush-Hula Road at 1515 today. Afterward, the artillery of the occupation forces stationed in Hula and al-Qantarah began shelling Wadi al-Sulugi, Majdal Silm, and the extremities of Shaqra, Salluf al-Buttikh, and Jumayymah at a rate of two shells a minute.

### One Killed in 'First' Infiltration in 6 Months

*NC2612185592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Dec 92*

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers ambushed a group of Palestinian fedayeen which infiltrated the border strip today, killing one of them between the villages of Bayt Lif and Sribbin. Security sources said an SLA member was wounded in a clash with the fedayeen. They added that the SLA later found the body of one of the fedayeen, along with grenades, Kalashnikov rifles, and anti-tank mines. The sources believe this is the first infiltration attempt by Palestinian fedayeen in six months.

### Israeli Gunboat Fires at, Wounds Fisherman

*NC2712114592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Dec 92*

[Text] According to security sources in Tyre, an Israeli gunboat opened fire on a Lebanese fishing boat off the Tyre coast this morning. A fisherman, Ibrahim Humani, was wounded, three boats sustained some damage, and 20 fishermen gathered off the coast lost their fishing nets in the sea when they had to run.

### Rockets Fired on Israeli, SLA Positions in South

*NC2712124892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Dec 92*

[Text] A security source in Tyre has stated that three Katyusha [rockets] targeted the Israeli and South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions in Bayt Lif at dawn today, without causing any casualties.

### Operation Against Militia Attributed to DFLP

*NC2712183092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Dec 92*

[Text] The cold weather in the south has not deterred the resistance members' faith in liberation. A resistance group confronted and clashed with the occupation militia [South Lebanese Army] on the fringes of the occupied strip. A resistance fighter was martyred and an agent militia member wounded.

Reporting the clash, REUTER said the militia afterward found the body of a resistance man, hand grenades, Kalashnikov rifles, and anti-tank mines between the towns of Bayt Lif and Sribbin.

News agencies attributed the operation to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], which has not claimed responsibility.

### Israeli Planes Wage Mock Raids 27 Dec

*NC2812071792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Low-flying Zionist military planes waged mock raids over al-Nabatiyah, Sidon, and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas between 2100 and 2130 [1900 and 1930 GMT] yesterday.

### Israelis Said Bombarding 'Arab Salim Suburb

*NC2912120992 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1156 GMT 29 Dec 92*

[Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk:

Israeli occupation forces have been bombarding the southern suburb of 'Arab Salim since 1340 [1140 GMT] today. More than 10 shells have already landed on the area. Meanwhile, bursts of machine-gun fire are being heard.

## Afghanistan

### Head of Council on 29 Dec Session Issues

*LD2812201092 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Excerpt of news conference given by Sayed Nurrulah Emad, head of the central commission for convening the Solution and Settlement Council, for domestic and foreign correspondents in Kabul on 28 December—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Emad] With the help of almighty God, the Solution and Settlement Council [Shura-e Alal-e Hal wa Aqd] will, God willing, start its formal session at 1030 tomorrow, 29 December. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You have sent invitations to jihadi leaders and have asked them not to consider this valueless [words indistinct]. If the majority of the jihadi leaders (do not respond to your invitation), what will be your obligation? Second, two UN representatives and two from the Islamic Conference Organization have come to Kabul for talks with you. Will they participate, as observers, in the council?

[Emad] We have now fulfilled our responsibility with great honesty, and remained faithful to what we promised. But it is up to the others whether they fulfill what they have promised. Elected representatives of the Afghan nation have come together. They, whether present or absent, will decide about determining their fate and on the appointment of the future leadership of the country. What the people will decide, we will support. It is registered [words indistinct] that the people, not the parties, will elect their representatives. The representatives who have come together here have come together on the basis of the people's choice, not on the basis of group and party competition. In addition, a number of diplomats have officially been invited to attend the session.

[Correspondent in English, with translation into Dari] Esteemed Sayed Nurrulah Emad, what is the number of the representatives of all jihadi organizations, especially of the National Islamic Movement of North? Will they participate in the council?

[Emad] I say it again, and say it clearly, that it is registered in the constitution of the central commission that members of the Solution and Settlement Council will be elected through the people, by the people, under the supervision of the mission tasked by the commission. The condition of participation or non-participation of the parties has not been enshrined in the constitution, that is, those people can be members of the council who, first, have the characteristics registered in our regulations; second, are elders of a tribe and are trusted by a tribe; and, third, are tribe commanders. They should have all these three conditions and also be elected in the usual way. All those people who have gone through these stages and are approved and appointed by the people and the supervisory mission and the central commission, taking into account its commission, and have given their assent to the conditions can become members of the council after receiving their credentials from the central commission, and can enter the council hall. Otherwise, they cannot be recognized as members of the council. I mean that there was very little party and group influence and great involvement of the people in these elections. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent in English, with translation into Dari] How many of the Islamic parties have agreed to participate in the council?

[Emad] I cannot say anything in this regard precisely. Tomorrow, after the session, we will see how many people will or will not participate. [passage redacted]

### Election Shura Opens With Ceremonial Speeches

*BK2912124092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1234 GMT 29 Dec 92*

[Text] Kabul, Dec 29 (AFP)—Afghanistan's electoral Shura Hal-va-Aqd officially convened Wednesday [29 December] with ceremonial speeches from interim president Burhanuddin Rabbani and others, but no attempt to start the actual procedure of picking a new Afghan leader.

"We are thankful to God that by eliminating the rule by infidels, the nation can resort to the Islamic tradition of shura for appointing its leadership—the shura whose blessed convening we witness today," Rabbani told the 1,315 delegates.

Rabbani—who observers say could be re-elected—declared his confidence in the delegates' honesty and competence, reminding them of their religious responsibility by quoting from Islam's Holy Koran: "God does command you to render back your trusts to those to whom they are due."

He also directed the delegates' attention to the special qualities the new leader of Afghanistan must possess.

"You will certainly choose a person who has been tempered in the furnace of jihad (holy war), is a model of national unity, enjoys sufficient prestige among the people, possesses the competence for leading our revolutionary and suffering country, and has the potential and practical executive guarantee for the administration of the country," Rabbani stated.

He added that he hoped the "wise decisions" of the shura would end "resentments and ill-feelings" prevailing among some Mujahedin factions eight months after the defeat of the Moscow-backed Najibullah regime.

Of the nine main Mujahedin factions in Afghanistan, only four are represented at the shura: Jamiat-i-Islami, to which Rabbani and Defense Minister Ahmed Shah Mas'ud belong; Rasul Sayyaf's Ittehad-e-Eslami; and Harakat-e-Eslami and Harakat-e-Enqelab-e-Eslami.

A shura spokesman said more faction leaders are expected at Thursday's session, but even with their attendance it seemed likely that Rabbani would be re-elected for the 18-month term as Afghanistan's president.

In a firebrand speech that seemed aimed at Rabbani as much as the captured audience, Sayyaf warned that although the Mujahedin had won a great victory over the Najibullah communists, there remained some residual Marxist elements to be routed out.

This was taken to mean ex-communist militias, in particular that of Uzbek strongman General Abdur Rashid Dostam, whose inclusion in the Afghan army has split the Mujahedin ranks.

Most wrathful over the issue of the militias is the hardline leader of the Hezb-e-Eslami faction, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, conspicuously absent from the shura.

Diplomatic sources reported Hekmatyar as saying he did not accept the legitimacy of this shura, and that he would attack Kabul in order to disrupt it.

There was tight security at the shura's Interior Ministry venue, where an army mine detector squad was seen searching the grounds. Heavily armed squads of Mujahedin guards patrolled the perimeters, and blocked access roads to all but those carrying special passes issued for the occasion.

Also assembled for the two-hour opening session were representatives from 12 foreign missions in Kabul, including the ambassadors from Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, and officials of North Korea and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO).

United Nations representatives who were summoned to attend the shura flew back to Pakistan on Tuesday.

### Seven Groups Agree on Selection of Council

*LD2712123292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Dec 92*

[Text] The chairman of the complaints investigation committee of the Resolution and Settlement Council has announced: Seven of the nine jihadi groups of Afghanistan have reached agreement on the details of choosing the representatives of the council. It is expected that with the efforts currently under way, the agreement of other groups will be achieved, leading to the formation of the main session of the Resolution and Settlement Council.

Mowlawi Mohammad Shah Fazli, the president of the Supreme Court of Afghanistan, who heads the five-member complaints investigation committee of the Resolution and Settlement Council, added: This committee has started investigating 30 cases of complaints received from various jihadi groups so far regarding the selection method for the representatives of the Resolution and Settlement Council and the procedures of the council's central committee.

This committee has been set up to investigate complaints and to solve the differences between the jihadi groups of Afghanistan concerning the Resolution and Settlement Council.

### Rival Islamic Party Leaders Hold Talks

*LD2812121692 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Dari to Afghanistan 0900 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] A source in the special office of the Islamic Party leader [Gulbuddin Hekmatyar] reported to a correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom that mujahid brother Hekmatyar, the leader of the Islamic Party, received yesterday morning Esteemed Mawlawi Mohammad Yunes Khalis [leader of faction also called Islamic Party] for a private meeting. The reports adds that during the meeting—which lasted from 1000 to 1100—both sides stressed the strengthening of relations between both groups. Hopes were also expressed for the further development of these relations.

Also in the course of this private meeting, current conflicts and the political-military situation in the country was discussed by both jihadi leaders in a climate of friendship and fraternity.

### Hekmatyar Denies Party Participated in Fighting

*LD2512144792 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 25 Dec 92*

[Excerpt] During an interview with the Afghan News Agency brother Hekmatyar, commander [amir] of the Islamic Party [Hezb-e Eslami] of Afghanistan, said: The forces of the Islamic Party did not take part in the recent fighting and the party's frontlines remain as before. The correspondent of the Radio Message of Freedom reports from the headquarters of the supreme commander of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan that the party's commander mujahid brother Hekmatyar yesterday afternoon carried out an interview by telephone with the Afghan News Agency. During this interview Brother Hekmatyar answered questions raised by a correspondent on the current military-political situation of the country. He explained the Islamic Party's position vis-a-vis the current problems.

Brother Hekmatyar said: During the recent fighting the position of the Islamic Society [Jami'at-e Eslami] forces was very weak. They have left Kabul, deployed in the Khayrkhana region, and started digging trenches. They have transferred their forces and men to Khayrkhana region fearing that fighting will definitely break out in this place [Kabul] and they cannot resist here. They have held a meeting in Khayrkhana and there they have decided to dispatch a delegation to General Dostam and hold talks also with the Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat]. In talks with the latter they have accepted holding talks with them regarding a four-sided council [shura]—so that this council can render decisions on issues. This council will consist of the North Movement, the Unity Party, the Islamic Party,

and Islamic Society. Rabbani will accept anything they decide. In this respect they [Islamic Society] have given a written guarantee to the Unity Party.

Brother Hekmatyar added: They have also sent a delegation to Dostam and repeatedly and regularly hold telephone contacts with Dostam and have accepted all of his conditions. One of the conditions was that he should have membership in the Leadership Council and they will introduce delegates from eight provinces to the council. A number of delegates have already arrived from a number of provinces and the rest will soon arrive in Kabul. All these delegates are being introduced by them.

After these agreements concluded with Dostam by Islamic Society, Rabbani now says that Islamic Society, the North Movement, and the Unity Party—who are included in the previous coalition—must agree with each other. After they agree with each other then they can hold talks with the Islamic Party. The Unity Party either has not yet accepted this notion or talks are still going on this point. During the past Mohseni and Sayyaf also stood up on the side of Islamic Society and by Rabbani [Karmal's] friends.

The commander of the Islamic Party added: They also sent a message to Mowlawi Mohammad Nabi saying that it is possible to hand over the Presidency to him. They have tried hard to satisfy a number of people in some ways. They now say that this [Resolution and Settlement] council can be convened. This council may be convened tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. All the delegates to this [word unclear] council have been introduced by Rashid Dostam; and he also introduced delegates from other regions too.

In reply to a question regarding the Unity Party's announcement that the Islamic Party and Islamic Society have reached agreement to hold these four-sided talks and whether the Islamic Party will really take part in these four-sided talks, Brother Hekmatyar said: Their envoy came to me and I told him that I cannot trust these words. We can never trust the Rabbani's commitments, undertakings, pledges, and [word unclear], nor I can trust this letter in your hand. However, we are ready to reach understanding.

Brother Hekmatyar was also asked: The position is not very clear in Balahesar and Tapa-e Maranjan regions [in Kabul city]. It has been said that Hezb is in control of some points in these two regions. What do you say in this respect? He replied: The situation remains as before and we have taken no part in any of this fighting, nor have we reached any understanding. We did not involve ourselves in this fighting. Therefore the question of a cease-fire does not arise. [passage omitted]

### Former Communist Force Claims Recognition

*BK2412151692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1435 GMT 24 Dec 92*

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Dec 24 (AFP)—A political movement headed by former communist militia strongman General 'Abdul Rashid Dostam has been formally recognised by Afghanistan's Islamic government, a spokesman for the group said Thursday [24 December].

The spokesman for Jumbish, a group dominated by ethnic Uzbeks from the north of Afghanistan, said Dostam had signed an accord with interim President Burhanuddin Rabbani on Tuesday.

But a presidential spokesman denied that any agreement had been reached with Dostam, who commands a force of Uzbeks that served under the former communist government before their mutiny helped the mojahedin come to power.

"I have no information of any such agreement being signed or concluded so far," said 'Abdul Aziz Morad.

The Jumbish official said Rabbani had agreed to officially recognise the group as a political organisation and allocate the position of deputy defence minister to a Jumbish nominee.

Jumbish would also be given an unspecified share of cabinet seats and would be involved in a commission drawing up a new constitution for Afghanistan, the official said.

Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Ittihad-e Eslami mojahedin faction, and a current ally of Rabbani, issued a statement condemning any recognition of Dostam's group.

"We categorically refuse any role for the militia and do not even recognise them officially as a political organisation or power," the Ittihad statement said.

Sayyaf threatened to review his relationship with Rabbani and "take an independent course" if the government "committed the most profound mistake" of recognising Dostam."

Dostam's feared Uzbek militia helped prop up the former regime of President Najibullah but defected and joined current Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in overthrowing the government in April.

Mas'ud, like Rabbani a member of the Jam'iat-e Eslami mojahedin group and an ethnic Tajik, had been supported by Dostam but recently clashes have occurred in Kabul between forces of the two groups.

Fundamentalist Pashtun leader Golbeddin Hekmatyar inflicted a ferocious rocket and artillery bombardment on Kabul during August in a failed attempt to drive out the powerful and well-armed Uzbeks, which he opposes because of their communist links.

A firefight broke out Thursday between Ittihad mojahedin and Uzbek troops in the Wazir Akbar Khan diplomatic area of Kabul where the Jumbish has its political offices.

No casualties were reported but the area remained tense.

Claims of an agreement came as representatives from across Afghanistan gathered here to elect a new president in an assembly called the Shura-ye Hai Wa 'Aqd.

The Jumbish spokesman said 156 representatives of the group had arrived in Kabul to attend the Shura.

Two preliminary meetings of the Shura have been held so far but the actual election process for Afghanistan's new leader has yet to convene.

## India

### Worship Allowed at Ayodhya Site; Move Criticized

*BK2812133092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] The Faizabad District authorities this afternoon allowed a symbolic darshan [viewing] of the Ram idols installed at the disputed site in Ayodhya. People were allowed in small batches in the complex. The devotees were permitted to have darshan from a distance of 6 meters.

The specially constituted division bench of the Allahabad High Court at Lucknow has begun hearings on petitions seeking permission for darshan at the disputed site in Ayodhya.

The Janata Dal has criticized the Faizabad District administration's decision to allow darshan in Ayodhya. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party general secretaries, Mr. Obaidullah Khan Azmi and Mr. Ramvir Singh Bidari, termed it a betrayal of the minorities and a surrender to communal forces. The party also opposed the Center's announcement about taking over the disputed site and said the whole problem should be referred to the Supreme Court.

### Local Authorities To Decide on Ayodhya Viewing

*BK2812131192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Excerpt] The prime minister has said it will take a few days' time for setting up the two trusts for building the temple and the mosque in Ayodhya. Addressing a news conference in Trivandrum this afternoon, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the Center as such did not give any directions on permitting darshan [viewing] of the Ram Lalla [Hindu deity Rama] idol in Ayodhya. In such matters, it is the local authorities who take decisions.

Asked how long the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, will be kept under detention, the prime minister said the matter is before the courts.

Replying to a question on the Congress-I alliance with the All India Anna DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], Mr. Narasimha Rao said the alliance is strong though we have got some people snapping here and there. The prime minister has since arrived in Tirupati. [passage omitted]

### Government To Acquire Disputed Areas in Ayodhya

*BK2712160292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Dec 92*

[Text] The Center has decided to acquire all the disputed areas in Ayodhya mentioned in the suits pending in the Allahabad High Court. Briefing the newsmen in New Delhi, an official spokesman said that it has also been decided to acquire [a] suitable adjacent area. The decision was taken at the cabinet meeting in New Delhi. The acquired land, excluding the area on which the disputed structure stood, would be made available to two trusts which will be set up for the construction of a Ram temple and a mosque and for the planned development of the area. It has been decided to request the president to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court on the question of whether there had been a Hindu temple existing on the site where the disputed structure stood. The government has also decided to abide by the opinion of the Supreme Court and to take appropriate steps to enforce the court's opinion. Notwithstanding the acquisition of the disputed area, the government will ensure that the position existing prior to the promulgation of the ordinance is maintained until such time as the Supreme Court gives its opinion in the matter. Thereafter, the rights of the parties shall be determined in light of the court's opinion. The government hopes that the measures would pave the way for the restoration of communal peace and harmony.

### Muslim Body Opposes Acquisition

*BK2812145492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] The Babri Masjid [Mosque] Movement Coordination Committee has demanded that the government should fulfill its promise to repair or reconstruct the mosques and madrasahs [mosque schools] damaged following the Babri Masjid demolition at Ayodhya on the 6th of this month. In a press release issued in New Delhi today, the committee disapproved the Center's decision to acquire the disputed land at Ayodhya. The release issued after the emergency meeting of the committee reiterated its demand on expedition of the judicial proceedings before the special bench of the Allahabad High Court. The release said that if necessary the Center can transfer all pending cases to the Supreme Court as announced by the prime minister in the Lok Sabha in July.

### Protesters, Police Clash in Delhi; 2,000 Arrested

*BK2812155992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1231 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Dec 28 (AFP)—Hindu protesters clashed with police here Monday [28 December] as Hindu and Moslem leaders rejected an attempt by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to forge a compromise over a toppled mosque in Ayodhya. The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported meanwhile that the authorities in Ayodhya had allowed a first batch of Hindu holy men to pray

Monday at a makeshift Hindu temple erected on the rubble of the Babri Masjid Mosque.

Police arrested some 2,000 activists of the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) as the protesters turned a New Delhi district into a virtual battlefield to step up their anti-mosque campaign. Nine BJP activists and several officers were injured in the two-hour clash during which police used water cannons and teargas to disperse the protesters.

The BJP said Monday's action was also to protest the arrest of party leader Lal Krishna Advani, who has been in custody since the Mughal-built mosque was toppled on December 6. The clashes came in the wake of a government announcement Sunday that it was taking over the disputed site in Ayodhya amid that two trusts would be set up shortly to build a mosque and a temple on the land.

The BJP, which has spearheaded the six-year campaign which led to the destruction of the Babri Masjid, has warned Rao's government against trying to rebuild the mosque or relocate the makeshift Hindu temple put up on the site. [passage omitted]

### Bhopal Muslims To Rebuild Damaged Temple 28 Dec

*BK2712163892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Dec 92*

[Text] In Madhya Pradesh, thousands of Muslims of Bhopal will launch kar seva [voluntary community service for temple construction] tomorrow to reconstruct the Durga [Hindu deity] temple destroyed during the recent riots at the (Buffina) colony. The decision was taken at a meeting organised under the auspices of the Madhya Pradesh slum dwellers and homeless in which about 500 people belonging to all communities participated.

### Political Leaders View Government Move on Ayodhya

*BK2812115892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] The former prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, says this is not the right time for the holding of elections. After visiting the riot-affected areas in Kanpur, he told newsmen today that the Center's action on the Ayodhya issue lacked proper coordination and thought. He said the mosque at Ayodhya should be constructed with the consent of both the communities. He said his party—Samajwadi Janata—will not align itself with the BJP on any issue.

The former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh and president of the Samajwadi Party, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, has said that the Center's move to acquire the entire disputed land and the adjoining area in Ayodhya will further complicate the issue.

The Haryana chief minister, Mr. Bhajan Lal, has suggested that Ayodhya be given the status of union territory where both the mandir [temple] and the masjid [mosque] should be built. Speaking at a function in Hissar today, he welcomed the Center's acquisition of land for the purpose.

### BJP Criticizes Government

*BK2812091892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has criticized the government for its decision to refer the issue of Ram Temple to the Supreme Court or to hand over the temple construction to a trust. In a statement in New Delhi today, the party vice president, Mr. Krishna Lal Sharma, described the government's decision as evasive and misleading with no conclusive solution. Mr. Sharma, however, welcomed the decision to allow darshan [viewing] of Ram Lalla [Hindu Deity Rama] idols in Ayodhya.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has asked the central government to immediately rescind the Faizabad District administration's decision to allow darshan in Ayodhya. In a press release, the party Politburo said that no religious activity should be allowed at the spot where the mosque existed. Welcoming the Center's announcement on taking over of the disputed area at Ayodhya, the party said left and secular opposition parties have been demanding the step for a long time. It said allowing darshan will defeat the purpose of takeover and will legitimize the unlawful activity indulged in by the BJP-RSS-VHP [BJP-Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-Vishwa Hindu Parishad] combine on the 6th of this month. The party also expressed strong disagreement with the Center's decision to refer to the Supreme Court for an opinion whether a temple existed at the site. Instead, the CPI-M demanded the transfer of all cases pending before the Allahabad High Court to the Supreme Court for a judicial verdict.

The Bharat Sadhu Samaj [Society of Indian Hindu Saints] has welcomed the decision to allow a darshan of Lord Ram at the disputed site in Ayodhya. In a joint statement, the leaders of the Samaj appealed to the Muslim leaders to rise to the occasion and cooperate in restoring communal harmony and peace in the area.

### Commentary Decries Pakistan President's Views

*BK2812113892 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[O.P. Sabarwal's commentary]

[Text] India-baiting is a favorite pastime with the obscurantist and religious fundamentalist politicians in Pakistan. The president of Pakistan, Mr. Ishaq Khan, is one of them, for he never misses an opportunity to have a fling at India, often as a strategy to divert public attention from domestic maladies, such as the repression let loose in states such as Sindh and Baluchistan.

But his speech in the Pakistan National Assembly last Tuesday [22 December] on the unfortunate happenings in Ayodhya crossed all previous limits. Mr. Khan's remarks on the Babri Masjid [Mosque] have been described by the

Indian foreign service as highly provocative, malicious, and intended to inflame public opinion. And rightly so, for the Pakistan president is out to inflame communal passions in India. Rather than adopt a constructive attitude on the tangled Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi issues, the Pakistan president is out to aggravate the problem. Posing as a friend of the Indian Muslims, he is in fact harboring a destructive intent against them by whipping up religious frenzy and pitting Indian Muslims against their compatriots.

The Pakistan president chose the present juncture to launch this tirade against India to divert attention of his people from the internal violence and repression by the Pakistan Army. The state apparatus in Sindh has built up a stormy situation within the country. The Pakistan Government, and President Ishaq Khan as one of its pillars, needs diversion, in order that public attention at home and abroad can be switched away from the opposition's impending protest march on Islamabad against the gross human rights violations in Sindh. The Pakistan president needs this diversion all the more, because his own kith and kin are involved in many scandalous incidents of repression against the democratic movement in Sindh and against the workers's movement in Sindh in particular.

There is also the growing public focus on the economic distress in Pakistan as well as the growing public discontent against the worsening economic conditions in the country. Then, there is also a need to cover up the Pakistani nuclear plans in order to avoid world focus on them. It was just a week before Ishaq Khan's performance in the National Assembly that the United States geared the critical choice of annulling agreements to provide critical and sophisticated military arsenal. Mr. Ishaq Khan did need to take away attention from these delicate and difficult problems, and the Babri Masjid issues appear to have provided a convenient target.

It is not religious compulsion that swayed Mr. Khan, not in the least. Had it been so, the Pakistan president would have shed a few tears for many a temple destroyed in Pakistan by the wave of officially-inspired mob frenzy, nor is it concern for welfare and protection of minorities in the subcontinent that swayed Mr. Khan, for he had not a word of regret against the killing and rampage against the Hindus, Sikhs, and Christians in Pakistan.

There is another vital issue pushed to the fore by President Ishaq Khan—that of meddling with India's internal affairs by Pakistani politicians. On this score, India's cup of patience is already full and no further concessions will be given to the Pakistan belligerence. Islamabad's sordid role in trying to push forth subversion in Indian states, Punjab and Kashmir in particular, is not going to be tolerated any longer. Certainly, not is to this last Islamabad extends to add the Babri Masjid issue, which is entirely India's domestic concern. [announcer as heard]

New Delhi, and the country as a whole, is engaged in tackling this sensitive problem of Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi, and the type of provocative utterance Mr. Khan has made in the Pakistan National Assembly will not be acceptable, for it w'orsens a difficult and sensitive issue. What has to be remembered is that the Pakistani religious bigots and fundamentalists have themselves contributed a great deal in making this problem an extremely vexed issue.

## Iran

### Azerbaijani Official, Delegation Arrive for Visit

*LD2812105192 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 28, IRNA—A senior Azeri official, heading a ranking political-economic delegation, arrived here Monday morning for a two-day visit to discuss matters of mutual interest. Vice-President of Azerbaijan Republic [title as received] Rakhim Gourayov told reporters at Mehrabad Airport that the issue of Karabakh will be among other topics of discussion with Iranian officials.

First Vice-President Hasan Habibi who received the Azeri delegation at the airport, also said that the visit would further expand political and economic ties between the two nations.

Gourayov is accompanied by Azeri interior minister and a number of other high-ranking officials.

Meanwhile, the morning daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' quoted informed sources as saying that the visit would "culminate into signing of several agreements in economic and commercial areas." It further added that the 50-man Azeri delegation would be received by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and hold talks with several Iranian officials for closer economic and trade cooperation. [Tehran IRNA English at 1003 GMT on 28 December, in a related Tehran-datelined report, states: "The 'TEHRAN TIMES' here Monday said Iran should resume its diplomatic efforts to bring to an end the destructive hostilities between the two newly-liberated republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan. Referring to last week's visit to Tehran of the Armenian vice-president, Gagik Arutunyan, the daily said in its editorial that an Azeri delegation headed by the First Vice-President of the Republic Rakhim Gourayov would arrive in Tehran today. It pointed to Tehran's mediation initiatives last year, and said after the lapse of a year Iran's 'goodwill' has been proven to both sides. 'Tehran is once again becoming the center of gravity between the two republics,' said the paper.

["It added that the newly-liberated republics have based their policies on a 'blind faith that upsurge of the ethnic and nationalistic tendencies would solve their problems.' These ethnic and nationalistic tendencies not only have not solved any problems but served to revive the age-old feuds from the previous centuries and led to the devastating war over Nagorno-Karabakh, it said. Referring to the great waste of the human and economic resources of the two republics, the daily said both sides would realize

that the continuation of the military encounter only benefits the enemies of the independence of both republics. It warned that the 'weak and fragile' economies of small countries like Azerbaijan and Armenia could not 'bear' the ruinous consequences of war. Though Iran's last year mediation was not received with the due consideration and understanding by either of the republics, nevertheless in view of the sense of responsiblity which Iran felt towards maintaining peace and stability in the region, it was 'incumbent' on Iran to resume its diplomatic efforts to put and end to the destructive war, concluded the daily."]

### Talks With Habibi

*LD2812165392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] The first round of talks between Rakhim Guseynov, the Azeri vice president [as heard], and Habibi, our country's first vice president, were held today. At the meeting Rakhim Guseynov expressed satisfaction over the establishment of the joint committee and the expansion of ties between the two countries in various fields. He said: We believe that the two countries should have the best relations in the region.

He added: Our country, which was freed of colonialism after so many years, would like very much to expand its ties with independent countries. The Islamic Republic of Iran has a special place in that respect.

Referring to the historic ties between the two countries Mr Habibi said: Those ties could be a good basis for expanding and strengthening mutual ties.

At the talks it was agreed for the task of the joint committee to continue in the form of a number of subcommittees.

### Minister Meets Ahmad Khomeyni

*LD2812174092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Azerbaijani Interior Minister Iskender (Seyyedov), who has accompanied his country's prime minister to Tehran, met Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni this afternoon.

At the meeting, the Azerbaijani interior minister said that the expansion of regional cooperation and exchange of experience was a prerequisite for the realization of the interests of the countries in the region.

Stressing the necessity for unity among Muslims in Islamic countries, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said that the appearance of economic and political problems was a natural and transient phenomenon for independent Central Asian countries in the new conditions.

Expressing regret about the situation of the people of Palestine, he stressed that helping world Muslims was an unalterable principle of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

### Meets With Velayati

*LD2812215792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Expansion of ties, important regional and international issues, and other matters of mutual interest were discussed at a meeting on Monday afternoon between our country's foreign minister and Azerbaijan Vice President [as heard] Guseynov.

While conveying warm greetings from his country's president to the people and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Guseynov thanked Iran for its assistance to Azerbaijan at various junctures. He added: We are under orders from our country's president to elevate the relations between Iran and Azerbaijan to the highest level.

He stressed: In our view Iran is a big country in the region and plays a key role. He said: Because of their common interests the two countries have the capability to expand relations and increase cooperation. We wish to study ways of further expanding and deepening relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Referring to the setting up of the two countries' joint committee he said: Fortunately, with the setting up of the joint committee, fundamental and appropriate steps have been taken toward the expansion of ties and cooperation. We are determined to reach positive agreements with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the political, economic, and cultural fields.

Regarding the situation in the region, Mr. Guseynov thanked Iran for its mediation efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Karabakh conflict.

Referring to the religious, cultural, historical, and geographical common denominators between the two countries, Mr. Velayati said: We consider the Republic of Azerbaijan a brother country. He said: Since the independence of Azerbaijan, we have done what that country has asked, within our powers. He added: The problems of the autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan were grave. Its people were in dire need of roads, food, electricity, and other primary facilities. In that respect we did not hold back any form of assistance.

### Discusses Issues With Rafsanjani

*LD2912121592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 92*

[Text] In a meeting with the first vice president of Azerbaijan today, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the need for political, economic, and cultural cooperation between the peoples of the two countries. The president

expressed gratitude for the sympathy of the Muslim people of the Azerbaijan Republic toward the Muslim people of Iran during the 1990 earthquake in Zanjan and Gilan, and said their aid to the earthquake victims was an indication of the depth of friendship and sincerity between the people of the two countries.

On regional and international political cooperation between Baku and Tehran, as well as other countries of the region, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that due to common interests as well as the regional and international situation, these countries should solve their own problems by cooperating with the recently independent countries and by using existing means and potentials in the region. Up to now steps have been taken in this direction, he noted. He added that our aim is to create relations, healthy friendly cooperation, and to transfer experience among the regional countries to allow the speedy solution of difficulties.

Rejecting suggestions by enemies about competition among certain countries in the Caucasian and Central Asian region, the president said the Islamic Republic of Iran consistently supports common cooperation of the regional countries.

Expressing concern over the continuation of war between the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia, he said the means that should be used for the construction and progress of the two countries is being used for a war that does not serve the interests of the countries involved but those of the enemies. He added that we hope the officials of Azerbaijan and Armenia will end the Karabakh conflict as soon as possible through negotiations and peaceful means.

In this meeting Azerbaijan Vice President [as heard] Rakhim Guseynov conveyed the warmest greetings of his country's president and people. He said that having gone through many years of colonialism and having achieved independence, the people of Azerbaijan have continuously enjoyed the support and sympathy of the people and government of Iran. Common religious and historic bonds are sacred for us and strengthen the basis of attachment and cooperation of the two countries. He added that we are aware of the Iranian people's attachment to the people of Azerbaijan, and our people are grateful for the kindness shown by the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said his discussions with the officials of our country have been fruitful, adding that Iran is Azerbaijan's biggest trading partner, that this cooperation is on the increase, and that agreements on economic and trade will be signed. The Azerbaijan vice president called for the expansion of cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the field of commodity transport as well as economic and trade exchanges.

Pointing to the issue of war in the Karabakh region Mr Panakh Guseynov said the Azerbaijan Republic has no interest in the continuation of war and it hopes to put an end to the existing conflicts through peaceful means as soon as possible.

According to our reporter First Vice President Habibi and Minister of Cooperatives Shafe'i also attended this meeting.

### Velayati Holds Talks With Armenian Official

*LD2312202692 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 23 Dec 92*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 23, IRNA—Expansion of Tehran-Yerevan ties was reviewed in a meeting held here today between Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Armenian Vice President, Gagik Arstyunyan.

Arstyunyan who is in Iran to take part in the first joint economic commission of the two countries, briefed Velayati on the current economic-political situation of his Transcaucasus Republic.

Velayati, saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy is based on good neighbourly relations with all the bordering countries, called for a just solution to the Karabakh conflict between Armenia and the Azerbaijan Republic.

Velayati said that the resources and potentials of the two belligerents should be directed towards reconstruction after the end of conflict.

Despite several mediatory missions by Iran, including direct talks arranged in Tehran, the two warring parties have failed to come to terms with each other.

### Foreign Minister on Regional Affairs, Egypt

*LD2912115292 Tehran IRNA in English 1023 GMT 29 Dec 92*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Monday that any security arrangement for the Persian Gulf without Iran's presence is inconclusive and doomed to failure.

Addressing a group of students who had gathered at the Tehran University mosque, Velayati termed as "important" Iran's position in the Persian Gulf region.

Velayati, whose remarks appeared in the press today, reiterated that both foes and friends of the Islamic republic admit the important role Iran plays in the region. He added that regional security will be provided only through mutual cooperation among the regional countries.

Velayati said the big powers are trying to create mistrust among the regional countries with the aim to portray a dark picture of the situation and consequently justify their military presence in the region.

He said that Iran in its foreign policy gives high priority to expansion of ties in various domains with the neighboring countries. However, the orientation of the regional countries towards Iran has surprised the Western powers, Velayati explained, adding that these powers are doing their best to establish a link between any Islamic uprising in the regional countries and Iran and term them as "ingenious" and subsequently suppress these movements.

Asked to comment on Iran-Egypt relations, the foreign minister said that presently, the two countries, besides cultural relations, have cooperation and consultation in certain international communities as well. As an example, he said, the two countries are launching joint efforts, within the framework of the contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), to put an end to the Serbian crimes in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

On the present status of Tehran-Cairo relations, Velayati said they are within the framework laid by president Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani adding that the more the Egyptian Government distances from the occupied regime of Palestine, the closer it comes to the Islamic republic.

However, the paper further quoted him as saying, the establishment of diplomatic relations with countries does not necessarily mean endorsing their policies. He added that Iran should have relations with other countries if it wishes to have presence in the world affairs and defend the Islamic revolution and that anything contrary to this would be senseless.

Velayati refuted claims that Iran has lessened its support for Muslim forces throughout the world. "The Islamic republic has never hesitated to support Muslim combatant forces," the minister said and explained that for this same reason the world powers continue to exert pressure on Iran.

Asked how many more Iranian prisoners of war (POW's) are still in Iraq, he said so far 45,000 POW's have been released and that efforts for the release of the remaining ones are underway.

According to him, an Iranian delegation recently visited Iraq and identified a large number of POW's as well as the bodies of many of those martyred in the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war.

On Afghanistan, Velayati said Iran was a major assistant to the Afghan Mojahedin during and after their struggle for liberation and that Tehran continued its efforts to solve the internal problems of the Islamic neighboring states.

Velayati disclosed that an Iranian delegation is to set out for Kabul in a near future with the aim to help settle the internal differences in Afghanistan.

### Meeting With Musa Possible

*NC2912102992 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Dec 92 pp 1, 15*

[Text] Tehran—The Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran is seriously considering the plan for the meeting between Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, an informed source said yesterday.

The sources said the meeting was proposed by the Egyptian foreign minister recently and expressed his country's intentions to resume diplomatic ties with Iran.

The high-level source in the Iranian Foreign Ministry, who preferred to remain anonymous, told the TEHRAN TIMES that the two nations of Iran and Egypt have had a history of long friendly and brotherly relations.

### Larijani on Relations With Egypt, Regional Issues

*LD2412134692 Tehran IRNA in English 1012 GMT 24 Dec 92*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 24, IRNA—A leading political analyst says holding negotiations and having diplomatic ties with a government in no way means endorsing the stands of that government.

"With respect to the century-old Islamic struggles of the Egyptian people, (resumption of) ties with that country is favorable for both nations of Iran and Egypt." Vice-Chairman of the Majles Foreign Policy Commission Mohammad Javad Larijani commented in an interview with IRNA Wednesday. However, he deplored the recent "unwise" stands adopted by the Egyptian authorities vis-a-vis the Zionist regime, the Palestinians, the Persian Gulf issues and their confrontation with the Egyptian revolutionary people. The Egyptian people, with their brilliant history, deserve to have a "wise and competent government," he stressed.

Commenting on the expulsion of 417 Palestinians from their homeland, Larijani termed the move as a fresh step towards ethnic cleansing in the occupied territories. He added that Israel, in the first stage of the so-called Arab-Israeli talks, was to exclude the Palestinian issue from that of Israeli relations with Arab neighbors and through posing the issue as an internal problem, to eventually expel all the Palestinians from their motherland.

He said the lack of serious action by international communities versus the Serbian crimes and displacement of millions of Bosnian Muslims has encouraged Israel to exploit the situation and square accounts with the Palestinians once and for ever. Larijani reiterated that defending the rights of the Palestinian Muslims is the obligation of all Muslims and that the Iranian nation and government continue to back the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

On the developments in the Horn of Africa, Larijani said the objective behind despatching of troops to that region is to prove that there is a "gendarme" in the world and that a "private club" administers the entire world. Turning to the latest developments in Tajikistan, the Majles deputy described them as "unpleasant, bitter" and at the same time "unbelievable". He said after the fall of communism and the subsequent independence of Tajikistan, the Tajik people were expected to gain the right of election after 70 years of suppression. He deplored that more than 500,000 Tajik people have been forced out of their homes in the cold winter only because they believe in Islam. According to Larijani, the ongoing events in Tajikistan are due to the interference and exertion of influence by foreign elements

in this Central Asian country. He also expressed concern over the emergence of similar events in other newly-independent republics.

He believed that certain power centers were attempting to preserve their past satellite-style relations but in a new shape. Certain other countries, he said, think of founding a new empire extending from the Black Sea to the Chinese border while the U.S. is making efforts to create an atmosphere of suspicion and hesitation towards Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran in the newly-independent states, factors which all together create insecurity in the region.

He suggested that the Islamic Republic should not only oppose the causes of insecurity in the region but also insist on the right of the people of these countries to determine their own destiny.

Larijani, formerly a deputy and advisor to the foreign minister, called on the ministry to help the Central Asian countries revive their national identity.

Commenting on the biased reports aimed at undermining relations between Iran and Afghanistan, he said, "the Islamic Republic foreign policy is based on non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries." He added: "Iran has never opted for interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan."

He described the present situation in Afghanistan as very complicated and volatile adding that Iran's diplomatic system should act rapidly in establishment of relations with various Afghan groups and briefing the Afghans on the views of the Islamic Republic in crucial situations.

### Velayati Sends Message to Russia on Balkans

*NC2512071492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Dec 92*

[Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin has called for efforts by Russia and the Islamic Republic of Iran to halt the war in the Balkan region.

Our ambassador in Russia met Churkin yesterday and delivered Dr. Velayati's message addressed to his Russian counterpart, Andrey Kozyrev. In this message, Dr. Velayati expressed the hope that all resources will be mustered to prevent the continued bloodshed in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The international community accuses Russians of following a pro-Serbian policy.

### Besharati Departs for Official Visit To Turkey

*LD2812103492 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 28, IRNA—First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati left here for Ankara Monday morning for a four-day official visit to Turkey at the invitation of his Turkish counterpart Ozdem Sanberg. Besharati and Sanberg will discuss Tehran-Ankara relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Political analysts here believe that following the release of the Iranian-bound Cypriot-registered ship "Cape Maleas", the main obstacle on the way to expansion of Iran-Turkey relations has been removed and the visit will open a new door in bilateral cooperation.

Cape Maleas and her cargo, seized by Turkey in the Bosphorous Strait in October last year, was released and delivered to her Cypriot captain last month.

### Besharati Calls For Closer Ties With India

*LD2812135092 Tehran IRNA in English 0944 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 28, IRNA—Indian Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Malik in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, said here Sunday that India and Iran hold close viewpoints on major world issues.

Counting the numerous common backgrounds shared by the two countries as the basis for their closeness, Malik expressed hope that Tehran and New Delhi would take more effective and concrete steps toward materializing the agreements reached at the joint commissions.

"The swift global developments and the current issues in the Persian Gulf region prompt Iran and India to promote bilateral ties," Besharati said.

### Mohajerani, Islamic Jihad Official Discuss Palestinians

*LD2312171292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 23 Dec 92*

[Text] At a meeting today with Mr. Mohajerani, vice president and chairman of the committee on support for the Islamic revolution of Palestine, Abu Jihad, representative of the Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine in Tehran, submitted a report on the latest developments in Palestine and the Zionist regime's policy aimed at combating the intifadah. He praised Iran's fundamental stance in support of the oppressed people of Palestine.

Emphasizing the support for the Muslim people of Palestine as a strategic principle in the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Mohajerani praised the expelled Palestinians for their perseverance and steadfastness.

### Majlis Approves Bill on Offenses Committed by Officials

*LD2612165292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 26 Dec 92*

[Text] At today's open Majlis session, the bill for removing Clause II of Article 149 from the internal regulations of the Majlis and appending four new clauses, which have a single urgency, was approved by the deputies. According to

our reporter, on the basis of this bill, if the Research and Investigation Committee of the Majles notes any offense, it will forward the facts about the case to the Majles' Article 90 Commission. The commission will in turn present the offender to the judicial courts for legal investigation. The highest executive office holder will also be dutybound to remove the accused from his post until the investigation is complete. The cases of accused officials working in organizations under the command of the eminent leader will be referred to his eminence for his attention.

During the session, the proposal put forward by a number of deputies to remove one urgency from the suggested double urgency of the country's budget bill, and the government's proposed five-year programs was approved. The bill was sent to the relevant commission for examination.

### Iraqi Paper Reports Election to Opposition Council

*JN2612102392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 26 Dec 92*

[Iranian names as received]

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Dec (INA)—Today's edition of the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that several Iranian military figures have been elected to the Iranian Resistance National Council.

The paper adds that Mehdi Abri, who was elected official in charge of foreign relations, and Mohammad Seyyed el-Muhaddithin, official in charge of international relations, were among those figures.

The paper indicates that some directors of classes for the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA], several INLA commanders, some commanders within the INLA General Staff, university professors, academicians, and judges, as well as well-known Iranian lawyers were also elected to the Council.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that Staff Colonel pilot Bahrad Moghrabi, former staff commander of operations of the Air Force Command, as well as several provincial chiefs, writers, painters, physicians, and artists were also elected to the Council.

The paper goes on to say that some commanders of the Iranian Fedayeen-e-Khalq organization, the Iranian National Democratic Front, private sector industrialists, and trade union leaders were also elected to the Council.

It should be noted that the Iranian Resistance National Council concluded the session it held this month.

## Pakistan

### U.S. Requests Return of Leased Warships

*BK2412132292 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Dec 92 p 1*

[By Muhammad Saleh Zaafir]

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 23—The United States has asked Islamabad to return the warship PIN Aslat which it leased to Pakistan along with other eight warships, including a supporting ship. "The demand is in contravention of the Pressler Amendment, which provides that Pakistan's defence capability level should not be lowered". This was stated by Admiral Saeed Mohammad Khan, Chief of the Naval Staff, while talking to a group of newsmen on Wednesday. He said the US Naval Chief assured this year that the US would not demand the return of these ships.

In response to a question the Naval Chief said he made it clear to his American hosts including the State Department and the high ups of Pentagon that with the return of these ships, the defensive capabilities of Pakistan's force would be affected, whereas the Pressler Amendment guarantees maintenance of Pakistan's present defence capability.

A high level team from the US would visit Pakistan early next month, to locate with the authorities here the question of withdrawal of these ships. "Our dialogue with the Americans are not yet concluded. The result of my visit to the United States would be known in about a month when we will be in a position to decide whether we have to return the ships". Admiral Saeed said.

He said "if after all we have to return the ships, I assure you that it would most be the end of our navy. These were old ships, and we could get more old ships". the Naval Chief said.

Admiral Saeed said now the Russians were friendly to us besides the United Kingdom and a number of other countries were prepared to sell second hand ships."

The Naval Chief said "we have informed the Prime Minister that we were fed up with the old ships. We sought the permission of the Prime Minister that we should be permitted to build our own ships".

The Prime Minister, he said was seriously examining the request.

Admiral Saeed said Pakistan and the US navies would undertake joint exercise in the open seas soon. When asked that after the collapse of the Soviet Union, India had acquired the former's role in the high seas and under the circumstances, should the US make her presence in the Indian Ocean, he said nothing could be said about it. The Soviet Union, had its clear tilt towards India. In any case he said we do not oppose the presence of the US navy. As long as the Kashmir issue remains unresolved, Pakistan will feel threatened by the Indian Navy. The Soviets had throughout been supporting India and even now they

(Russians) were providing them assistance. Not only this, even the Americans were now conducting joint naval exercises with the Indian Navy.

"We have told Americans that if they want to carry out exercises with them, go ahead, but we must not be left out isolated. They have told us that there is no question of Pakistan being left isolated", the Naval Chief said.

Admiral Saeed hoped that the Americans would carry out exercises and cooperate with us as well. The US exercises with the Indian Navy would not affect their relations with Pakistan, he added, "They have given us assurances in this respect, he said. [no end quotations as published]

The Naval Chief ruled out moves towards the Indian Ocean security plan by the littoral countries other than India. To a query, he said there was no doubt that India had a huge navy but the strength or size of the Indian Navy had not reached the stage that all the countries of the region should enter into a security plan, to counter Indian designs.

When the Naval Chief was asked about the impression of Washington about the Indian naval build-up, he said Washington was of the view that India had a long coastal line and navy ports. "I told them about our perception and made it clear to them that India is crossing limits of its legitimate defence needs and that this is a source of concern for us.

When asked about the recent threat by his Indian counterpart that in case of war Indian Navy, could block Pakistan shipping routes, he said, no doubt the Indian navy was a bigger force, but Pakistan was also enhancing its naval capability. The Indian navy could have achieved something but it does not mean that they would find us a sitting duck. The Indians would be meeting a life-time surprise, he said.

## Assembly Adopts Resolution on Mosque Demolition

*BK2412143692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Dec 92*

[Text] The National Assembly today unanimously adopted a resolution expressing deep anguish over the demolition of Babri Masjid [mosque] and urged the Indian Government to take effective measures for the protection of Muslims, their properties, and reconstruction of the masjid at its original site. The House urged the government to seek assistance of international community to take effective and collective steps to rebuild Babri Masjid and ensure protection of fundamental rights of Muslims in India in accordance with international declarations and internationally recognized norms. The House also expressed its regrets over the damage caused to the places of worship of minorities in Pakistan. The assembly called on the government to undertake repair of the places of worship of minorities and provide compensation to the affectees.

The resolution was moved by Mr. Hamza at the conclusion of a three-day debate on the demolition of Babri Masjid. The resolution was drafted in consultation with and complete agreement of IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad], PDA [People's Democratic Alliance], Jamaat-i-Islami, members of minority communities and other groups in the National Assembly.

Earlier, winding up the debate, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, said that delegations to various countries to mobilize international opinion on the Babri Masjid tragedy and to ensure a protection of the rights of Indian Muslims. He said the prime minister took immediate measures at home and abroad to deal with the situation arising out of the demolition of the Babri Masjid. He said we are constantly in touch with the Muslims and other countries on this issue. Mr. Kanjoo said the prime minister immediate reconstruction of temples and provision of the compensation to the affectees.

The federal minister for narcotics control, Rana Chander Singh, said this tragic incident has deep effects on the two countries. He called for dealing with such a situation with cool mind and patience.

In all, nine legislators participated in the debate today.

The Senate has called on the Muslim world to exert economic, political and diplomatic pressure on India to restore the historic Babri Masjid. Initiating the debate on the demolition of Babri Masjid this morning, the leader of the House, Mr. Mohammad Ali Khan, said it was a planned act which has exposed the Indian claim of secularism. He praised the policy of the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, on this issue and observed that the whole nation has endorsed the measures taken by the government for the restoration of historic masjid. Professor Khurshid Ahmed suggested that the government and opposition should forge unity and adopt a consensus policy on this sensitive issue. He urged the Muslims world to exert economic and diplomatic pressure on India to restore the Babri Masjid.

## Official Protest Lodged Over Indian Remarks

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[Text] Pakistan has protested to India over the highly objectionable remarks of an official spokesman of the Indian Government on Friday [25 December] last about the references to Babri Masjid [mosque] in the address of the president of Pakistan to the joint session of parliament. The Indian high commissioner, Mr. S.K. Lambu, was called to the Foreign Office today and conveyed the shock and disappointment of the Government of Pakistan over the intemperate language employed by the Indian Foreign Ministry official in referring to the president's speech. The Indian high commissioner was reminded that the Government of Pakistan has all along scrupulously avoided derogatory remarks about the Indian president and prime minister in its official pronouncements. Pakistan hopes that

the Indian side would show similar regard for the Pakistan head of state and government.

### World Peace Effort Sought for Kashmir Dispute

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[Text] Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said the international community should also initiate a peace process between India and Pakistan along the lines of the Middle East peace efforts. Addressing the participants of the national defense course at the National Defense College in Rawalpindi today, he said the core issue between the two countries is Kashmir and Pakistan has been constantly striving for serious negotiations to resolve this basic issue in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions and the spirit of the Simla agreement. He said Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif met his Indian counterpart on several occasions and emphasized the need for the leaders of India and Pakistan to start negotiations in the interest of the people of the two countries. The minister of state regretted that even after a lapse of more than 40 years, India has failed to make good on its promise of holding free and fair plebiscite elections in occupied Kashmir, which has led to an uprising in the occupied territory where india started clashes, massacres, savage atrocities and tyranny, molestation of women, and similar other inhuman activities, in which more than 10,000 innocent Kashmiris have been martyred. He reaffirmed moral, political, and diplomatic support for the just struggle of the Kashmiri people.

The minister of state again called upon the Indian Government to rebuild the mosque at the original site of the Babri mosque and provide protection to Indian Muslims. He referred to the frenzy and extremism among Hindus and an increase in violence in various parts of India and said this might further jeopardize peace prospects between the two countries.

Kanjoo also referred to the nuclear issue, saying Pakistan has made it clear to U.S. authorities that it is committed to the objective of nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia, but it will not accept any responsibility that India refuses to accept.

### Bhutto on Government Domestic, Foreign Policies

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[By Amir Mateen and Anwar Sindhu]

[Text] Islamabad—Leader of the Opposition Benazir Bhutto opened the National Assembly's debate on the Presidential address to the Parliament joint sitting, coming out with a comprehensive attack on the "mishandling" of the country's affairs by Mian Nawaz government.

Presenting a chargesheet of the government's "corruption" to the Speaker during her over 75-minute speech on Sunday, Benazir presented her party's stand on all issues, calling Ghulam Ishaq Khan a besieged President "who spoke before a barricaded Parliament in the cordoned Capital of the country while riot police wargamed protestors outside."

But the main target of her speech remained the Nawaz Sharif government, which, she said, had brought the country to a stage where "there is no democracy, no freedom of expression and movement and where human rights are constantly violated".

"Let me tell the regime, the policies of terror and repression cannot work. Either come forward with a credible political settlement in the light of my letter to the Prime Minister and the APC [All Party Conference] resolution or be responsible for the consequences", she said.

She lashed out at the government's performance in all fields, from foreign policy, economic conditions to domestic affairs. Far from the President's cautious comments, with lots of 'ifs' and 'buts', on the state of the nation, Benazir's speech was hardhitting with concrete analysis of all issues from fundamentalism to foreign investments to what she called foreign policy debacles in Kashmir, Siachen, Bosnia, Afghanistan and Central Asia.

The Presidential address, she said, spoke volumes about the sad and tragic affairs in Pakistan two years after the overthrow of "the elected democratic government of the people and its replacement by an illegitimate coterie who seized power by rigging the ballot boxes and denying the people the basic and fundamental right to choose their government and determine their own destiny."

This, she said, had generated extreme polarisation. The IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] government had failed in its economic reforms and had even failed in holding itself together.

Benazir was pretty optimistic about the results of the PDA's [People's Democratic Alliance] Long March, saying that it galvanized the entire nation and panicked the regime. She painted a grim picture of the government response to their agitation. "Our Secretariat was seized. The former First Lady was fired upon and two former Prime Ministers were [word indistinct] mercilessly for two hours. The sanctity of the Parliament was violated as police raided the offices of the Leader of the Opposition", she said while her supporters shouted "Shame, shame."

"The regime resorted to sabotage and subversion. Communication lines between four provinces were cut off. Bombs built bridges subverted roads dug up [sentence as published]. Petrol pumps starved. Buses seized and rail and plane traffic interrupted".

Justifying her going for a protest outside the Parliament, she said: "Every time the Opposition spoke of national and political issue, the regime responded by personal attacks. They got nowhere and will never get anywhere through the language of political blackmail."

"We in the Opposition have given everything for freedom, the rule of law and an egalitarian Pakistan. We can never succumb to political blackmail. It is the regime's hopeless effort at this end which has increased political instability in Pakistan, divided the nation and exposed it to increasing international isolation."

Giving historical references, she said no forces could quell the tide of popular support. "If you stop us once, we shall do it again." She sounded ominous when she added, "Again and again."

For her, the success of the long march was the first battle won and more victories would follow. The joint Opposition would be meeting shortly to chalk out a further plan of action.

She was in an aggressive mood when she said the double talk on dialogues must end. "Either the regime takes credible steps to demonstrate its good intentions or else faces counting political instability."

According to Benazir, Nawaz Sharif was unable to defend the vital security interests of Pakistan. "He cannot unite the people and cannot confront the challenges of a crisis. The Indians test his nerves and he falters."

She lashed out at the foreign policy of the Nawaz Sharif administration alleging that the Prime Minister "prefers to play cricket while Muslims are burning".

Devoting a major part of her 90-minutes state-of-the-nation style address Pakistan's foreign affairs, she took the opportunity in refute allegations that her recent interview with NBC television had damaged the national interests.

"To cover up his failure at Tokyo, the Prime Minister has adopted the unbecoming, though familiar, tactics of passing on all the shortfalls of his own doing to the former government of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party]. Nawaz Sharif had no pangs of conscience by indulging in the naked lie that my NBC interview was damaging for the country. The whole world knows that I said nothing new. In fact, Nawaz Sherif, through Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan, revealed nuclear secrets in a public statement at Washington and confirmed Washington's doubts." she retorted.

Benazir said that the Nawaz Sharif administration had over the past two years exhibited a nuclear policy which had brought nothing but public demoralization. She said that the United States-led pressure on the nuclear issue, in conjunction with European capitals, now joined by Japan, was well known.

She said Pakistan's relations with the United States had gradually declined and had reached their lowest ebb in the history of relations between the two countries, leading to the present tensions. She said Western capitals were humming with reports that the State Department was actively considering to declare Pakistan a 'terrorist state'. This followed on the heels of Pakistan being denied economic and military aid earlier agreed upon, she said.

"Nawaz Sharif will be directly responsible for the horrendous consequences that will flow out from such US decisions. Latest reports in the national media indicate that a new law is under consideration in the US Senate, harsher than the Pressler Amendment, to ban not only American aid but also international financial assistance to Pakistan," stressed Benazir.

But it was on relations with India that the Leader of the Opposition had some real venom, as she homed in on Kashmir, the Babri Masjid [Mosque] and the Siachen Glacier.

"A helicopter is shot down in Ma27s. Nawaz Sharif remains silent. A Pakistani diplomat is beaten up in India. Nawaz Sharif remains silent. For two weaks Hindu fanatics gather outside Ayodhya. Nawaz Sharif remains silent. Babri Masjid is martyred, yet Nawaz Sharif prefers his witch-hunt against the Opposition rather than uniting the nation over Babri Masjid.

He does not have the nerve to confront the Indian government on high moral ground, nor does he have the nerve to negotiate a settlement with the Opposition. Instead of taking the high moral ground after the martyrdom of Babri Masjid, the regime unleashes an orgy of violence, bloodletting, burning and destruction against the minorities in Pakistan. Its own ministers and chief ministers take part in this vandalism," Benazir said.

Accusing Nawaz Sharif of failing to mobilise the Islamic world, she said that apart from lip service to Islam and the Ummah:, Nawaz Sharif had totally failed to muster the Muslim world in any concrete terms towards the sufferings of the Bosnian brethren, nor indeed the agency of Palestine.

"Babri Masjid alone does not cry out at Pakistan. In Bosnia, 114 mosques have been martyred, 30,000 Muslim women raped, tens of thousands of Muslims killed. What has the regime done to help the Muslims of Bosnia? Nothing," said Benazir.

Benazir was equally harsh on what she called the growing fundamentalism in the country. "In the last one year Pakistan has moved dangerously away from Quaid-i-Azam's vision of Pakistan to that of myopic fanatics relying on bigotry, persecution and narrow-mindedness", she said.

Benazir came down heavily on the government's economic performance saying that Nawaz Sharif had absolutely failed in making the reforms that were actually pioneered by her government successfully. She made an allegation against the Premier for obliging his personal friends from the sale of industrial units.

She said that despite his starting with the obvious advantages of having a massive majority through "rigged election" and the backing of the establishment, the Army and the bureaucracy. "Nawaz Sharif's two years in power are a remarkable story of missed opportunities, mismanagement, corruption, misjudgment and erratic governance."

"Mishandling of the Cooperatives scam has further thinned his credibility", she said while pointing out five

major weaknesses of his government, the penchant for unstructured governance, failure to distinguish between haste and speed, an official agenda out of synchronay with wider realities, the temptation of treating publicity as substitute for performance and the tendency to resort to political wheeling and dealing when in trouble."

She took the Nawaz Sharif government to task on what she termed as the manipulation of Assemblies and horse trading, its attitude towards the Opposition and its style of politics which was marked by lack of consultation with the legislative bodies and increasing reliance on intelligence agencies.

She said Nawaz Sharif had always avoided the Press Corps and has constantly muzzled the Press. Journalists had been subjected to frequent verbal attacks by the PM himself and his cohorts had given clear direction for physical attacks by the "law enforcing agencies."

She ended her speech on a dramatic note, saying, as the daughter of a martyr, I know how to fight for the rights of the people, as the wife of an innocent prisoner, I know the suffering of the innocent and as the mother of children, I work for all children of this country to give them hope for a better future. That future is ours to grasp and grasp we will."